

FINDING THE RIGHT BREEDER AND PUPPY

Health screening is important to the health of the Portuguese Water Dog breed. When the recommended screenings are done for the dam and/or sire, puppies produced from those litters will not be affected by GM-1, JDCM, prcd-PRA, EOPRA and Microphthalmia Syndrome (Puppy Eye Syndrome/PES). *[A reputable breeder will make health testing certificates available to the prospective puppy buyer. Be sure to ask for a copy of all health testing documentation.](#)*

- **Hip Dysplasia** - Although individual Portuguese Water Dogs can be afflicted with various orthopedic problems, the primary disease condition affecting the breed is CHD, or Canine Hip Dysplasia. CHD is a common canine inherited condition that is not apparent at birth, in which there is irregular development of the hip joint as the dog grows. This results in a poorly fitting ball and socket, which with even normal activity tends to develop degenerative joint disease over time. A PWD *cannot* be certified as “CHD Free” until the hips are x-rayed at 2 years of age and therefore *should not be bred* until they are at least 2 years old and have had their hips x-rayed.
- **Eye Related** -
 - **Canine Eye Certification Registry** - Eye examination performed by a Veterinary Eye Specialist (not your family vet). This eye exam should be conducted at 8 weeks of age and then every year up to age 10.
 - **Early Onset Progressive Retinal Atrophy (EOPRA)** - In the fall of 2012, a new form of PRA was reported in the breed. See prcd-PRA below.
 - **Progressive Retinal Atrophy (prcd-PRA)** - PRA is a group of inherited diseases that cause irreversible degeneration of the retina and eventually causes blindness.
 - **Microphthalmia Syndrome (PES)** - This is a congenital abnormality present bilaterally and characterized by a small globe and associated ocular defects which can affect the cornea, anterior chamber, lens and/or retina. These associated defects may be variable in severity.
- **GM-1 Storage Disease (Gangliosidosis)** - Storage Disease (GM1 gangliosidosis) is a recessive, genetic disorder. It is produced only when two carriers are bred together. The disorder is caused by a lack of an enzyme that allows the build up of toxic substances in the nerve cells. It is fatal to affected puppies.
- **Juvenile Dilated Cardiomyopathy (JDCM)** - Juvenile Dilated Cardiomyopathy, JDCM, is a deadly disease found in the breed. It is recessively inherited and causes sudden death in puppies between the ages of five weeks and seven months.

For more information related to the PWD Health Testing, please visit:

<https://www.pwdca.org/assets/docs/health/PWDCA-Health-Testing-Recommendations-202003.pdf>