

CHIC DNA

So what is a CHIC DNA and why do I need one?

The Canine Health Information Center, also known as CHIC, is a centralized canine health database jointly sponsored by the AKC/Canine Health Foundation (AKC/CHF) and the Orthopedic Foundation for Animals (OFA). CHIC currently “collects and stores canine DNA samples along with corresponding genealogic and phenotypic information to facilitate future research and testing aimed at reducing the incidence of inherited disease in dogs.” According to CHIC this helps:

- Facilitate more rapid research progress by expediting the sample collection process
- Provide researchers with optimized family groups needed for research
- Allow breeders to take advantage of future DNA based disease tests as they become available
- Foster a team environment between breeders/owners and the research community improving the likelihood of genetic discovery

In layman’s terms, when you send a CHIC DNA sample to the repository, you help provide an important foundation pool of DNA samples for our breed in case it is ever needed for a research project. Taking this small and simple step is a way for you to help preserve the good health of the breed. *(You will also need to do a CHIC DNA sample as part of the requirements for a CHIC number.)*

I have already done an AKC DNA, why do I need to do this?

The purpose of the CHIC DNA is to store it for future resource needs. An AKC DNA is only used by the AKC for verifying parentage of dogs, and not for genetic research. These tests must be done separately.

What do I need to do to get a CHIC DNA sample?

This is one of the easiest and most inexpensive tests that you can do on your dog, which makes it affordable for everyone. There are two types that you can do: a blood sample (\$20*) or a cheek swab (\$5*). The blood sample is the most useful for research, but requires a visit to the veterinarian. The cheek swab is very inexpensive and can be done at home. Cheek swabs are also an excellent option for young puppies. To order a kit go to: <http://www.caninehealthinfo.org/dnabank.html> (*prices as of 12/09)

Special note to breeders

As guardians of the health and genetics of the breed, all breeders are encouraged to order kits for their litters as soon as the puppies are born. This will enable you to do cheek swabs on all the puppies before they leave, which will guarantee that all puppies that are breed have a CHIC DNA done on them. This will give a strong foundation of families for studies as well. Please CHIC DNA all of your puppies!

Special note to owners

If your breeder has not done a CHIC DNA on your dog please be sure to do one. This is important for not only breeding dogs, but for all pets as well, so as to build up family groups for the DNA repository. For a very small amount of money and time, you can help to do your part to preserve the health of the breed.