

CHIC NUMBERS

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

As many other parent clubs have done, the PSCA made recommendations to the Canine Health Information Center (CHIC) as to what tests it recommended to be done on all dogs before they are bred. (This of course varies from breed to breed depending on the health issues affecting that breed.)

For the Pyrenean Shepherd the following were recommended by the PSCA and are required tests to get a CHIC number:

- **Hips certified clear of hip dysplasia** (OFA, OVC or PennHip)
- **Patellas certified clear** (OFA)
- **Eyes certified clear** (CERF)
- **CHIC DNA**

The results may either be normal or not. The idea is for breeders and owners to test their dogs and to share that information. This hopefully encourages people to report abnormal results, which in turn benefit the entire breed by having this information made public. *(Unfortunately owners often do not send in abnormal results to OFA, CERF.)*

So what does having a CHIC number really mean?

Having a CHIC number DOES NOT mean that the dog is certified clear in all those areas.

Having a CHIC number DOES mean that the dog's owner is willing to do all the necessary tests, and to make those results public whether normal or abnormal.

This is important to remember... So, if a dog has a CHIC number be sure to check the results. You can see all tests results at: www.offa.org (Click on "Advanced Search". Under breed choose "Pyrenean Shepherd", and click on "Begin Search". This will pull up all PS results.)

Do be sure to thank owners who get CHIC numbers, especially those with abnormal results. They are truly showing their commitment to the health of the breed and to creating an open climate for discussing health issues.

Every one that owns a Pyr Shep should consider getting these tests done, even if you do not plan to breed. The more health information available, the better for the breed and for us all.