HEALTH FOR OUR BLACK RUSSIAN TERRIERS

Preamble: Our Black Russian Terriers are predominately a healthy breed, but they do have some health concerns that are pretty common to many large breeds.

A good starting place is to look at what researchers have to say about our breed.

Another point of reference will be what the National Clubs have to say about the health of our breed and what the Canine Health Registry does require for our Black Russian Terriers prior to being issued a CHIC number.

I have attached below the most recent issuance of The Humane Society Veterinary Medical Association for Congential and Hereditary Disorders in Dogs. Prepared by Dr Jean Dodds a well respected canine specialist.

In future articles I will elaborate upon the recent research into each condition, and if there is a genetic test or not for the condition.

Guide to Congential and Hereditary Disorders in Dogs.

http://www.hsvma.org/assets/pdfs/guide-to-congenital-and-heritable-disorders.pdf

Extracted from above:
Black Russian terriers: 95, 152, 166, 192, 256, 312, 321, 322 = 8 conditions as follows:

95. Elbow dysplasia: an abnormal development of the elbow joint.

152. Hip dysplasia: a developmental malformation or subluxation of the hip joints.

166. Hypothyroidism: a very common endocrine disease where the body produces an abnormally low amount of thyroid hormones. An autoimmune destruction of the thyroid gland which affects more than 50 dog breeds. (See #192, 312)

192. Lymphocytic thyroiditis: an autoimmune disease causing inflammation and destruction of the thyroid gland, which becomes infiltrated with lymphocytes (white blood cells) and leads to hypothyroidism. This is the most common endocrine disease of the dog and has an inherited predisposition. (See #166, 312)

256. Progressive retinal atrophy: a disease where the retina slowly deteriorates, producing night blindness

312. Thyroiditis: an autoimmune inflammatory disease of the thyroid gland. (See #166, 192)

321. Uric acid calculi: bladder stones which are formed primarily from urates. Common in Dalmatians, except for the recently formally accepted genetically modified Low Uric Acid (LUA) Dalmatians.

322. Uric acid excretion abnormalities: an abnormality in the process of the excretion of the

uric acid formed during metabolism. Common in Dalmatians, except those that are LUA stock. (See # 321).Dalmatians, produced by crossing to a pointer and then backcrossing now in the 14th generation to preserve the breed's phenotype yet eliminate the uric acid calculi. (See #321)