

## THE HEALTH REGISTRIES

There are several Health Registries all of which are found in the United States that record the results of various pre breeding screening tests and or genetic tests for all dogs, and that includes our Black Russian Terriers. They are CHIC, CERF, OFA, and PENNHIP.

**CHIC:** Is Canine Health Information Centre; and its website is <http://caninehealthinfo.org/> This was developed to be a one stop website to see all the health tests a particular dog of a particular breed has undergone. They have partnered with the National Breed Clubs of the USA, to ask the breed clubs to submit their recommendations for what pre-breeding screening tests they would recommend prior to breeding a dog of that breed. So in the US the National Club for the Black Russian Terrier submitted their recommendations [www.brtca.org](http://www.brtca.org), and here-in is what can be found on the CHIC database. (Search done 2013 12 16). If the dog has submitted all the recommended tests, then they will receive a CHIC number. Note that doesn't mean they passed all the tests, it does mean the breeder did the tests and submitted them for posting. This Registry is open for Canadian Breeders to post their results as long as the dog has a permanent marking (tattoo, or microchip) and is registered with an acceptable dog registry of which CKC is one such registry. At present search time (2013 12 16) there are 142 BRTS' with CHIC numbers on file.

### Hip Dysplasia

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- OFA Evaluation - OR
- OVC Evaluation (min 24 months of age)

### Elbow Dysplasia

- OFA Evaluation

### Eye Examination by a boarded ACVO Ophthalmologist

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- Results registered with [OFA](#) - OR
- Results registered with [CERF](#)

## Congenital Cardiac Database

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- Standard OFA Cardiac Evaluation

## Congenital Cardiac Database (Optional)

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OFA evaluation with exam by cardiologist

Visit the official club website

- <http://www.brtca.org/>

**OFA:** Orthopaedic Foundation for Animals: [www.offa.org](http://www.offa.org). This organization was founded in 1966 and is a non-profit organization.

This organization will assess/evaluate hip and elbow joint disease, and they will also post eye test results (CERF) on their database as well. Unfavourable or dysplastic hips/elbows are only posted if the owner gives their permission to post. The age of the dog for a formal evaluation must be 24 months or 2 years old.

A search of their records on 2013 12 17 yielded 1645 entries for Black Russian Terriers. But each dog usually has 2 lines of entry, one for hips and one for elbows, and then CERF's if submitted.

**CERF:** Canine Eye Registration Foundation: <http://www.vmdb.org>

This registry was created to record eye disease information most especially for what is thought to be genetic/inherited eye diseases.

Only board certified canine ophthalmologists can do the eye exam, and then the report is submitted to CERF for inclusion into their database, again with owner's permission to do so. CERF will share this information with OFA and I believe CHIC as well.

The American College of Veterinary Ophthalmologists is where Canadian DVM's can go to receive the training for this specialty and after successful course /exam work receive their Diplomat.

**PENNHip:** This registry was established in the early 1990's by Dr G. Smith, who developed and conceived a different more expansive methodology to exam hips, and to develop a reliable early indicator of future OA of the hip from as early as 16 wks old.

Website:<http://info.antechimagingsservices.com/pennhip/index.html>

Three views are taken of the hip, by certified PennHip veterinarians who then send in the X-rays for assessment and evaluation by PENNHip.

I did a recent search on their site and as of 2013 12 17 there are three vets near to Toronto, Ontario who are certified to take the X-rays PennHip requires.

Breeders can use this as a predictive tool, for their breeding program that includes the goal of minimizing hip dysplasia that is expressed in the BRT.

### USING THE HEALTH REGISTRIES

There are many ways to use these registries, as a breeder or future owner of a BRT. You can search by kennel name, by AKC or CKC registration number, by Dogs name, etc, to see not only what health testing has been done on that particular dog, but the parents, siblings, etc.

It is, in my opinion one important information tool that both breeders and future owners can use to inform their decisions.

In future articles I will look at each of the diseases that the Black Russian Terrier Club of America (BRTCA) recommends we screen for.

Nb: The Ontario Veterinary College used to maintain a Hip and Elbow Dysplasia database and evaluation screening which is as far as I could tell defunct! If you see in the historical records OVC that refers to a Canadian database that was kept at one time by the University of Guelph