

# Havanese Club of Great Britain

## Statement on The Royal Kennel Club's new Breed Health Standard

The Havanese Club GB's current [health testing recommendations](#) based on Health surveys and Health reporting, and in alignment with many European countries, are as follows:

<b>Essential</b> (essential tests every breeder should do)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Annual Eye Test</b> with a British Veterinary Association approved Ophthalmologist</li><li>• <b>Patella luxation test</b> (one off test in dogs over the age of 12 months)</li></ul>
<b>Optional</b> (health tests to be considered to gather further information on the breed, as per Annual Health reports and surveys)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Heart testing</li><li>• Hip &amp; Elbow screening</li><li>• DNA tests</li></ul>

### Recommendations in the new [RKC Breed Health Standard](#) for Havanese

<b>Good Practice</b> (essential tests every breeder should do)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Eye Test</b> with a BVA approved Ophthalmologist</li></ul>
<b>Best Practice</b> (essential tests as above <b>PLUS</b> optional tests that are not considered essential at this time due to insufficient evidence)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">Hip &amp; Elbow screening (BVA scheme)</a></li></ul> <p><i>*additional Breed Club Scheme (patella) referred to but not currently part of Best Practice (see under Patella testing below)</i></p>

### HCGB views on RKC Breed Health Standard for Havanese

The HCGB very much welcomes the introduction of Breed Health Standards to standardise health testing and provide guidance to breeders and puppy buyers, and we recognise the hard work the RKC Health Team has put into this new scheme. Nevertheless, the HCGB and its members have some questions and concerns, and we will be seeking clarification from the RKC.

<b>Patella testing</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The RKC cannot recommend patella testing at this time as the BVA does not have a formal patella testing scheme in place. The RKC Health Team has assured us they are working with the BVA to establish a formal patella scheme in future.</li><li>• This means however that puppy buyers may not be aware of the importance of patella testing, unless they contact the HCGB.</li></ul>	<b>Hip &amp; Elbow screening</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The RKC used primarily the large US screening database (OFA) to make these recommendations in Havanese, but not in other small breeds.</li><li>• This may give the erroneous impression that there is a problem in the breed, when Havanese results are in fact comparable to many other small breeds.</li><li>• Hip disease is rarely reported in Havanese in the UK</li><li>• Thought needs to be given to appropriate advice for breeders on interpretation of screening results, and we would like assurance that there will be dialogue on the risk of unnecessarily diminishing the genetic pool and thus genetic diversity.</li></ul>
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### What action is the HCGB taking?

The HCGB has been liaising with the KC Health Team and our concerns have been referred to the Health Standards Advisory Panel (meeting date TBC). The HCGB will keep the Havanese Community informed on further developments.

### Help and contact

If you would like to discuss any of the issues related to the new Breed Health Standard, please contact the Breed Health Co-ordinator on [contact@havanese-club-gb.co.uk](mailto:contact@havanese-club-gb.co.uk).