

## Be a Top Paw... Awarding Excellence in Health Testing

The innovative Top Paw Health Awards were developed to encourage widespread health testing and reporting through the Orthopedic Foundation for Animals (OFA).

| HCA Top Paw Health Awards |            |            |          |              |
|---------------------------|------------|------------|----------|--------------|
| Award Level               | Bronze Paw | Silver Paw | Gold Paw | Platinum Paw |
| Current CERF              |            |            |          |              |
| OFA BAER                  |            |            |          |              |
| OFA Patellas              |            |            |          |              |
| OFA Cardiac               |            |            |          |              |
| OFA Hips                  |            |            |          |              |
| OFA Elbows                |            |            |          |              |
| OFA LCP                   |            |            |          |              |
| Dog > Age 7               |            |            |          |              |

Recognition is awarded to individual Havanese whose owners have health tested them at the various levels above. Special recognition is also awarded to breeders and stud dog owners who are mentoring other Havanese fanciers to test and report results.



## Top Paw Health Program... Recognized by CHF!

The HCA Canine Health Foundation (CHF) Poster Contest Entry above won 1st place in the Health Policy Division and Honorable Mention in the Health Information Division at the 2007 AKC National Parent Club CHF Conference.



## Quick Links for More Info...

- HCA [www.havanese.org](http://www.havanese.org)
- AKC [www.akc.org](http://www.akc.org)
- CERF [www.vmdb.org](http://www.vmdb.org)
- CHF [www.akcchf.org](http://www.akcchf.org)
- CHIC [www.caninehealthinfo.org](http://www.caninehealthinfo.org)
- OFA [www.offa.org](http://www.offa.org)

*Havanese Health Testing Information*

*How To*

*Be a Top*

*PAW...*

*Pawsitively Achieving Wellness*

*Our primary mission...*   
*is to educate Havanese owners on available health testing and increase awareness of potential health concerns.*

*Presented by the Havanese Club of America (HCA)*

*Health Committee*

## Our Relationship with Leading Health Organizations...

The HCA participates in the Canine Health Information Center (CHIC) program to promote testing and reporting of health test results for the Havanese breed. CHIC is a centralized canine health database jointly sponsored by the AKC Canine Health Foundation (CHF) and the Orthopedic Foundation for Animals (OFA). Testing required for a Havanese to receive a CHIC certificate includes OFA BAER, OFA Hips, OFA Patellas and annual CERF exams. It is not necessary for the Havanese to actually pass those tests as our intent with the CHIC program is to simply encourage widespread testing and the open disclosure of results through the OFA database.

HCA encourages Havanese breeders to use the OFA database to research the health pedigree of dogs prior to breeding. This provides an outstanding research tool for performing searches on individual dogs and also links health testing results of the dog's related pedigree information (Parent, Offspring, and Sibling), when those related dogs have been health tested.

It is fair to assume most, if not all breeders have good intentions, as no one sets out to breed unhealthy dogs. Each breeder faces similar challenges as we work to translate good intentions into producing healthy puppies. Appropriate utilization of available health information along with a continued commitment to health testing and research will help us meet one of our primary HCA objectives:

*'to encourage and promote quality in the breeding of purebred Havanese'*

## Havanese Health Testing Recommendations...

### Current CERF

**Ocular Abnormalities** - 92.9% Normal\*  
**Definition** - Any condition for which the dog would not receive a passing CERF eye exam (primarily cataracts).  
**Diagnosis** - Test should be performed every year until age seven by an Ophthalmologist.

### OFA BAER

**Congenital Deafness** – 99.6% Normal\*\*  
**Definition** - Deafness in dogs can be acquired [caused by intrauterine infections, drugs, liver disorders, or other toxic exposures before or soon after birth] or inherited.  
**Diagnosis** - Brainstem Auditory Evoked Response (BAER) testing may be performed after 5 weeks of age at a testing facility by a Veterinary Neurologist.

### OFA Patella

**Patellar Luxation** – 97.1% Normal\*\*  
**Definition** - The patella, or kneecap, is part of the stifle joint (knee). In patellar luxation, the kneecap luxates, or pops out of place.  
**Diagnosis** – Test may be performed after one year of age by a General Veterinarian.

### OFA Cardiac

**Cardiac** – 99.0% Normal\*\*  
**Definition** - Malformation of the heart or great vessels. Virtually all common congenital heart defects are associated with the presence of a cardiac murmur.  
**Diagnosis** – Test may be performed after one year of age by a Veterinary Cardiologist or General Veterinarian with special training.

### OFA Hip

**Hip Dysplasia** – 89.3% Normal Hips\*\*  
**Definition** - Faulty or abnormal development of the hip causing laxity of the hip joint, which in turn may lead to various degrees of arthritis and lameness.  
**Diagnosis** – Hip radiographs may be taken after two years of age by a Veterinarian and sent to OFA for a rating.

### OFA LCP

**Legg-Calve-Perthes** – 99.8% Normal\*\*  
**Definition** - Hip disorder resulting when blood supply to the femoral head in the hip joint is interrupted, which in turn leads to avascular necrosis, or the death of bone cells.  
**Diagnosis** – Radiographs may be taken after one year of age by a Veterinarian and sent to OFA for evaluation. Hip radiographs may also be used (requires separate form).

### OFA Elbows

**Elbow Dysplasia** – 92.2% Normal\*\*  
**Definition** - An inherited polygenic disease in the elbow consisting of one or more conditions: Pathology involving the medial coronoid of the ulna (FCP), Osteochondritis of the medial humeral condyle in the elbow joint (OCD) or Ununited anconeal process (UAP) which causes lameness.  
**Diagnosis** – Elbow radiographs may be taken after two years of age by a Veterinarian and sent to OFA for a rating.

\* **Statistic Source** - Canine Eye Registration Foundation (CERF) 2006 Havanese Statistics Report for Eye Disease.

\*\* **Statistic Source** - Orthopedic Foundation for Animals (OFA) online breed statistics as of January 2009.