NEMDA strongly recommends that all U.S. breeding dogs have these tests/evaluations performed to establish their health status regarding the following potentially inherited breed conditions: hip dysplasia, patellar luxation, and eye disease.

**Hips:**

certification by either the Orthopedic Foundation for Animals (OFA) or Fédération Cynologique Internationale (FCI) at 24 months of age or older. A preliminary report can be issued for breeding at 18 months of age, but the final evaluation for certification needs to be performed at or after 24 months of age.

**Patellar Luxation:**

examination for OFA certification can be performed any time over 12 months of age by a veterinary practitioner or specialist (*added as a requirement for all BCOE breeders effective June 1, 2018*).

**Eyes:**

- annual examination of eye health by a Diplomat of the American College of Veterinary Ophthalmologists (performed within 12 month period prior to each breeding)
- certificate of prcd-PRA genetic test results from Optigen or Paw Print Genetics

The results of these screening tests are to be submitted for inclusion in the OFA online database. [http://www.ofa.org/](http://www.ofa.org/)

All health documentation should be made available upon request.

In addition, all breeding EMDs will have DNA samples collected, analyzed, and registered with the AKC. NEMDA recognizes other health issues that occur less frequently or do not have current tests available, including Entlebucher Urinary Syndrome (EUS), congenital heart issues, cruciate ligament tears, and cancer. NEMDA recommends that all potential owners conduct their own research, ask questions, and request physical copies of both parents' health documents.

NEMDA conducts a decennial North American breed health survey, the results of which are available to all club members or upon request. NEMDA maintains a breed-specific pedigree and health database to record and track trending health concerns/issues in EMDs. Much of the health testing information can be found within the pedigree database maintained on the NEMDA website. [http://pedigree.nemda.org](http://pedigree.nemda.org)

NEMDA encourages all those interested in the EMD to support breeders that contribute information to the NEMDA pedigree and health databases. Through their actions, these breeders demonstrate a commitment to cooperation benefiting the breed, and a dedication to the improvement of the current and future health of all EMDs.

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