



The Maltese is a healthy breed with few health issues and will usually live well into the double digits.

Maltese are a CHIC registered breed. Our CHIC requirements are:

- ~ OFA Patella (a knee condition that can occur in many toy breeds)
- ~ OFA Congenital Heart Base (while Maltese are not prone to heart problems, this is primarily to rule out Patent Ductus Arteriosus)

Both of these certifications can be done by a regular veterinarian.

Congenital liver issues to be aware of in Maltese are liver shunt and Microvascular Dysplasia (MVD). It is recommended that Maltese, particularly puppies, be bile acid tested. This blood test is a good indicator for assessing liver health. While it is rare for Maltese to have a liver shunt (a condition in which the blood essentially bypasses the liver such that the liver is unable to do its job), it is still a good idea to proactively rule out this condition. Bile acid testing may reveal MVD which many Maltese do have. MVD occurs at the cellular level. Blood does go through the liver, but not as efficiently as in a normal liver. MVD in Maltese tends to be totally asymptomatic and they will live long, normal lives with no need for medical intervention.

Another condition noted in Maltese as well as several other toy breeds is encephalitis. The two forms prevalently identified are granulomatous meningoencephalitis (GME) and necrotizing meningoencephalitis (NME). Current thought suggests that these maladies are an autoimmune response (the body attacks itself), which results in inflammation of the central nervous system---usually the brain. Studies are under way to develop a test to predict which Maltese might come down with the disease. Should a Maltese ever exhibit any neurological symptoms, one should see a veterinarian immediately.

As in all toy breeds, dental maintenance is important. Daily brushing and regular cleanings will help your dog have healthy teeth through out his lifetime.

Other than old age heart murmurs, old age cataracts and possible dental cleanings/extractions, one can expect a Maltese to live like a playful puppy for a long time.

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This Health Statement approved by the American Maltese Association Board of Directors on January 8, 2018.

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