



## Application Kit Health Star

The application for a Health Star consists of:

- application form to be completed by the Owner/Applicant
- application form to be completed by examining Veterinarian. Please print a form for each Health Star
- Verification form to be completed by owner for applicable Health Stars i.e. Cystinuria Type III, Thyroid Testing, RFGS.
- Veterinary Information sheets to help assist the Veterinarian in assessments.

Dogs are eligible for Stars from 10 months of age.

There will be no pass or fail grades.

**All proof of testing should clearly identify the dog tested by microchip number, registered name and number.**

Completed Applications should be returned to the Queensland Bulldog Club Health Committee with proof of testing and the application fee to:

Queensland Bulldog Club Health Committee

C/- The Secretary

2 Poole Street

Leichardt Qld 4304

Or electronically lodged to:

[qldbulldogclub@gmail.com](mailto:qldbulldogclub@gmail.com)



## Queensland Bulldog Club

### Health Star Certificate Application

#### To Be Completed By Owner:

Registered Name

ANKC Registered Number  Microchip Number

Date of Birth  Sex  Colour

Sire Name and Registration Number

Dam Name and Registration Number

Name of Applicant/Owner(s)

Address

Street Address

City

State

Postcode

Contact Number

Postal Address

Email

I certify that all the information I have provided is true and correct.

Certification to be listed on QBC Website

Signature if Applicant/Owner

Date

**To Be Completed By Assessing Veterinarian:**

Date of Examination

Name of Examining Veterinary Clinic

Name of examining Veterinarian and Board Registration number

Veterinary Clinic Address

Phone Number

Please enter a valid phone number.

Email

I have verified the permanent identification of the dog by scanning the microchip and the information matches the permanent identification provided on this form and the original certificate of pedigree issued by an ANKC Ltd (Dogs Australia) Member Body.

- Yes the Microchip matches
- No the Microchip does not Match

I have read the Information Sheets for Veterinarians. I can confirm that I have examined/tested the dog for the following (please select applicable testing) in accordance with the guidelines:

- Schirmer Tear Test (Valid for two years)
- Cystinuria Type 3 DNA Test
- Thyroid Testing
- BAER Hearing Test
- Tail  Good (mobile)  Mobile  No tail  Ingrowing (Inverted)

ETT or RFGS by certified Veterinarian  ORCHID Submission no.

Signature of Veterinarian

Clinic Stamp

**Proof of Testing Form To Be Completed By Owner**

Registered Name

ANKC Registered Number  Microchip Number

- Cystinuria Type 3 DNA Test
- Thyroid Testing
- ETT or RFGS by certified Veterinarian  ORCHID Submission no  
OR
- RFGS Certificate attached

I certify that all the information I have provided is true and correct.

Signature if Applicant/Owner

Date

Attn: Samples Only

## **Information Sheets For Vets**

Immune system disorders play a part in about 80% of cases of dry eyes in Bulldogs. The eye problem, however, can also be an inherited disease that is more common among Bulldogs than other dog breeds. Schirmer's first described tear test (known as STT I) can be used to measure basal and reflexive tear production in a non-anesthetized canine, feline, or equine eye. Basal tear production is defined as the quantity of tears produced which normally lubricate the corneal surface. Reflexive tear production describes the quantity of tears produced in response to an irritant (including an inserted Schirmer tear test strip).

- A test strip of a dog with normal tear production will stain the test strip up to at least the 15mm mark.
- If the color on the test strip reaches 10 to 14mm, the result is considered borderline.
- A dog is diagnosed with dry eye if the stain on the test strip only reaches 10 mm or less.
- Severe dry eye is diagnosed when the measurement reaches 5 mm or less.

To be tested for every 2 years to maintain Star.

### **Cystinuria-Associated Marker (Type 3) (Androgen Dependent Cystinuria)**

Aminoaciduria and stone formation only observed in intact male dogs. Age of onset of aminoaciduria ranges between 8 months and 2.5 years. First instances of clinical signs (due to stone formation) can range from 1 year to late in life (as late as 9 years observed to date).

### **Cheek Brush Sample Collection**

Cheek brushes (also called Cytology brushes)

1. Please note, the kind of brushes you use must be:
  - Sterile
  - Wrapped individually or two per pack
  - The wrapper must be intact/unopened before sample collection
  - The brush handles (plastic only; we no longer accept swabs with wooden handles) must be longer than 5 inches and the thickness of those handles must be less than 0.3 centimeters in diameter
  - We prefer brushes over swabs, because they fail less often
  - Do NOT use culture swabs (these are swabs that come with plastic tube containers with culture media in them)
2. Isolate the animal from other animals, toys, and other sources of oral contamination for several hours before sampling.
3. To avoid contamination with food, do not feed or water the animal within 3 hours of collecting the sample.
4. Check the animal's mouth for food or other substances. If there is something, clean/rinse the animal's mouth and wait for another hour.
5. The person collecting the sample should avoid touching inside the animal's mouth.
6. Wash your hands before you collect the sample or wear disposable gloves.
7. Label the packages/sleeves that contain the cheek brushes with the animal's call name and the owner's last name.
8. Open the end of the brush package that shows the word "peel" printed on it. Be careful not to touch the brush end as you remove it; it should not touch anything except inside the animal's mouth or inside the package it came in.
9. You may also wish to ask a second person to gently restrain the animal's head while you collect the sample.

10. Insert brush end between the animal's gums and inside of the cheek. Roll the brush on the inside surface of the cheek for 15–20 seconds. Make sure that the brush is in contact with the cheek and not just with the saliva. To enhance sample collection, gently push on the outside of the cheek while rolling the brush, this will press the brush between the cheek and gum.
11. Hold the brush in your hand for at least a minute while it air dries. Do NOT blow on the brush.
12. Return brush to its original package, allow it to dry completely, and then tape the opened end shut.
13. Repeat steps 7–12 for the second brush using opposite side of the mouth. **Two brushes are needed for each animal tested.**
14. Secure brushes from each animal in a separate paper envelope.
15. If you plan to test another animal, remember to wash your hands before you start with the next animal or change gloves.
16. To reduce the chance of microbial growth on the brushes after sample collection do not freeze them or store them in a refrigerator where condensation can occur.
17. Complete the [online submission](#) for each animal, print the submission sheet, and mail it along with the sample in a sturdy mailing envelope to the address printed on the submission sheet. Write "Do Not Bend" on the mailing envelope.
18. All samples for DNA testing can be shipped by regular mail, but **we recommend having a tracking number for your shipment**, so that you can track the delivery of your samples. Do NOT ship them on ice. If you are using USPS or other government run shipping service expect a delay in delivery (their expected delivery dates are not predictable because the USPS delivers directly to the University first, for subsequent distribution to our PennGen labs). If you prefer a prompt delivery, **we recommend using a private shipping service** (such as FedEx, UPS, DHL) which deliver directly to our laboratories or building.
19. For international shipments, a customs declaration and proforma invoice must be completed and included with the shipment (outside and inside package; see international shipping instructions below).

#### Concerns Associated with Cheek Brush Sample Submissions

We have been accepting cheek brush samples for our DNA tests because it simplifies the process of sample submission and reduces the associated expenses for the submitter. However, it is important that you understand the following concerns/risks with submitting a cheek brush sample:

1. **Misidentification/Mislabeled:** Especially when collecting samples from siblings/littermates, it is possible to misidentify the animals or to mislabel the collected samples. This will obviously lead to inaccurate results.
2. **Contamination:** DNA tests are contamination-sensitive; even miniscule amounts of contamination from another animal or human could lead to false results. Therefore, it is important to be attentive during sample collection and to follow the instructions.
3. **Unweaned Puppies/Kittens:** Do NOT collect cheek brush samples from unweaned puppies/kittens due to the risk of maternal contamination. For testing unweaned puppies/kittens, have a veterinarian collect 0.5 to 2 ml of EDTA blood, but not more than 0.5 ml per 100 grams of body weight.
4. **No or Insufficient DNA:** If too few cells are removed from the cheeks, it will result in insufficient DNA yields and the test will fail. While there are other factors that could cause insufficient DNA yields, it is most likely due the sample submitter's failure to follow the instructions appropriately. We ask for at least two brush samples to be submitted from each animal, if both of them fail the test, it means that something went wrong before we received the samples (either the samples were not collected/shipped properly or some other shipping issue like customs irradiation of the package). There have been instances where the submitter sent unopened/sterile brushes by mistake, which obviously resulted in no DNA yield as well as instances when the sample grew mold and did not yield results.
5. **Resubmission:** When a test fails due to No/Insufficient DNA yield, we ask for a resubmission but both the failed submission and resubmission may be charged. When we receive a sample that fails, due to low DNA or contaminated DNA due to mold growth, we must perform multiple tests before we conclude it has no/insufficient DNA.
6. Our test reports specify the type of sample submitted.

## About International Shipping

When shipping internationally, first verify the shipping requirements as described by your choice of delivery service provider (FedEx, UPS, ParcelForce, DHL, etc.).

US Customs requires that all international shipments have two copies of a written declaration (see example below) specifying the content of the package. One copy of the declaration should be secured to the outside of the package, and the other should be inserted inside the package. To create the declaration, copy the following statements onto a piece of paper, preferably your clinic or your own letterhead, and make sure to sign and date the declaration.

### Regarding USDA Guidelines for Importation #1102 - Feline and Canine Material

I understand that a USDA import permit is not required for this material since I can provide the following true statements.

- 1. The material in this shipment is [canine/feline] [blood/serum/fluids].
- 2. This material does not contain any other animal derived material (i.e., does not contain any livestock or poultry origin material).
- 3. This material was NOT derived from cats and/or dogs which were inoculated with or exposed to any infectious agents of agricultural concern.

*I declare that the above information is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.*

Signature:

Veterinarian - Print Name:

Clinic Info / Letter Head:

For more information on these guidelines, please visit the [USDA webpage](#).

Email: [PennGen@lists.upenn.edu](mailto:PennGen@lists.upenn.edu).

## THYROID TESTING

### Testing Procedure:

Female dogs should not be tested during an estrus cycle. Test must be conducted as far away as possible from the last vaccination. If the dog is on a thyroid supplement, you must wait at least 90 days from the last dose to test.

### Indices of thyroiditis:

- 1. Free T4 (FT4)** This procedure is considered to be the “gold standard” for assessment of the thyroid’s production and cellular availability of thyroxine. FT4 concentration is expected to be decreased in dogs with thyroid dysfunction due to autoimmune thyroiditis.
- 2. Canine Thyroid Stimulating Hormone (cTSH)** This procedure helps determine the site of the lesion in cases of hypothyroidism. In autoimmune thyroiditis the lesion is at the level of the thyroid and the pituitary gland functions normally. The cTSH concentration is expected to be abnormally elevated in dogs with thyroid atrophy from autoimmune thyroiditis.
- 3. Thyroglobulin Autoantibodies (TgAA)** This procedure is an indication of the presence of the autoimmune process in the dog’s thyroid.

### Interpreting Results:

#### Normal

**FT4** Within normal range  
**cTSH** Within normal range  
**TgAA** Negative

#### Positive autoimmune thyroiditis

**FT4** Less than normal range  
**cTSH** Greater than normal range  
**TgAA** Positive

#### Positive compensative autoimmune thyroiditis

**FT4** Within normal range  
**cTSH** Greater than normal range or Equal to normal range  
**TgAA** Positive

#### Idiopathically reduced thyroid function

**FT4** Less than normal range  
**cTSH** Greater than normal range  
**TgAA** Negative

Available through:

### **BAER Testing**

Deafness occurs in dogs probably with the same frequency as in people. The most common causes are congenital (recognised generally in the first 6 months of life) and age related (senile or degenerative deafness).

Congenital deafness is most likely due to a genetic abnormality and is seen more commonly in some breeds including Dalmatians, Australian Cattle Dogs (ACD's) and English Bull Terriers. It can, however, be seen occasionally in any dog breed and deafness is usually apparent by 6 weeks of age. Deafness may affect one or both ears. Deafness due to genetic abnormality unfortunately is permanent.

Brainstem Auditory Evoked Response (BAER) testing is the most sensitive test in assessing hearing. Other less sensitive tests are available e.g. BAERCOM, but these tests are significantly less accurate.

Breeders of Dalmatians, ACDs, English Setters and Bull Terriers are encouraged to routinely have puppies hearing evaluated by BAER testing prior to pups going to pet homes, and before making breeding decisions in an effort to reduce the incidence of deafness in their breeds.

**Susan Sommerlad** [BVSc, MACVSc.](#)

University of Queensland  
St. Lucia Veterinary Teaching Hospital.  
Phone : (07) 3365 2348  
*Monday to Friday*

For Samples Only



## Tail

A Health Star will only be awarded for healthy tails that pose no issues for the dog. The tail should not be inverted or screwed but should ideally be long and able to be lifted by the dog.

Examples:



Examples of long healthy tails.



Bun tails, loosely curled, can have some movement and be able to be cleaned under.



Screw tails. Tight and hard to clean under.



Inverted tails. Extremely hard to clean and prone to infection.

## Exercise Tolerance Test (ETT) University Of Cambridge Protocol

### RESPIRATORY FUNCTION GRADING SCHEME ASSESSMENT PROTOCOL FOR ASSESSORS

- Initial examination prior to exercise test: the dog should be kept as calm as possible with gentle restraint. If the dog is stressed, please allow a period of time to calm. Auscultation is performed directly over the larynx from the side, avoiding any upward pressure on the pharynx and larynx. Head should be in a neutral position, not flexed.
- Exercise test: this is designed to keep the dog active for 3 minutes. The dog should be encouraged to trot at 4-5 miles per hour by the assessors or the owners, but not pulled on the lead. Toilet stops should be accommodated. If the dog has reasons that it cannot manage this pace (e.g. osteoarthritis, obesity, anxiety), a fast walk should be attempted.
- Examination after the exercise test: the dog should be auscultated immediately following the exercise test.
- Functional grading: The clinical grading was based on respiratory signs before (pre-ET) and immediately after the exercise test (post-ET). The highest grade from any of the three categories (respiratory noise, inspiratory effort, dyspnoea/cyanosis/syncope) should be given as the final grade.
- Some dogs may have quieter mouth breathing after exercise than nasal breathing prior to exercise. These are usually grade I dogs.
- If the dog is under 12 months old when first graded, it should be re-graded after a year.
  - a) Respiratory noise (stertor and/or stridor) was diagnosed by pharyngolaryngeal auscultation. Mild: only audible under auscultation; moderate: intermittent audible noise that can be heard without stethoscope; severe: loud, constant audible noise that can be heard without stethoscope.
  - b) An abnormal respiratory cycle characterized by evidence of increased effort to inhale the air in with the use of diaphragm and/or accessory muscles of respiration and/or nasal flaring with an increase in breathing rate. Mild: minimal use of diaphragm; moderate: evidence of use of diaphragm and accessory muscles of respiration; severe: marked movement of diaphragm and accessory muscles of respiration.
  - c) Dogs that have had episodes of syncope and /or cyanosis as documented by owner's report are classified into Grade III without ET. Dyspnoea: irregular breathing, signs of discomfort, and laboured breathing.
  - d) Dogs with moderate intermittent nasal stertor when sniffing have similar BOAS index (objective respiratory function) to dogs only with mild respiratory noise, therefore, these dogs are considered Grade I

**Functional Grading**

		Respiratory noise (a)	Inspiratory effort (b)	Dyspnoea/ Cyanosis/ Syncope (c)
Grade 0	Pre-ET	Not audible	Not present	Not present
	Post-ET	Not audible	Not present	Not present
Grade I	Pre-ET	Not audible to mild stertor, and/or moderate intermittent nasal stertor when sniffing (d)	Not present	Not present
	Post-ET	Mild stertor, and/or moderate intermittent nasal stertor when sniffing (d), and/or intermittent gentle stertor when panting	Not present to mild	Not present
Grade II	Pre-ET	Mild to moderate stertor	Not present to moderate	Not present
	Post-ET	Moderate to severe stertor	Moderate to severe and/or regurgitation of foam/saliva	Dyspnoea; cyanosis or syncope not present
Grade III	Pre-ET	Moderate to severe stertor or any stridor	Moderate to severe	Dyspnoea; may or may not present cyanosis. Inability to exercise.
	Post-ET	Severe stertor or any stridor	Severe and/or regurgitation of foam/saliva	Dyspnoea; may or may not present cyanosis or syncope

## Amendments

11/5/2023	<b>Changed AVA number to board number Adjusted footer to show level and page numbers. Inclusion of ETT/RFGS until testing available statewide.</b>
3/11/23	<b>Changes to allow for submission for certification by owner by providing copies of reports.</b>

KTU  
e-Tracks  
Only