

Buying a Chihuahua (long & shorthaired) Puppy

What to expect from a Breeder who puts Health, Welfare and Temperament First



The Chihuahua is within the category of 'extreme body size and head shape'

✓ Essential Documents

- Signed AWF Puppy Contract
- KC Registration Certificate (if applicable)
- Microchip Registration Certificate
- Temporary Pet Health Insurance
- Vaccination Certificate
- Copies of Health Certificates
- ***A good breeder will***
- have socialised and habituated the puppy
- provide a supply of food
- provided a blanket smelling of Mum
- follow the Code of Practice for Dog Breeding

✓ Health Certificates (both parents)

BVA/KC Health Schemes

- Hip dysplasia (HD)
- Chiari malformation/syringomyelia (CMSM)
- Eye Scheme - progressive retinal atrophy (PRA crd 4 / crd 1)

DNA Tests available

- Neuronal ceroid lipofuscinosis 7 (NCL7)
- Progressive retinal atrophy PRA crd 4 / cord 1
- Chondrodystrophy (CDDY and IVDD)
- Merle coat colour
- Lafora disease

Breed Health and Conservation Plan (BHCP)
www.the-british-chihuahua-club.org.uk
www.dbrg.uk/guide-to-buying-a-puppy.html



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Brief Disease Explanation

If in doubt ask your vet for guidance



Health Schemes - testing available

Hip dysplasia (HD) - abnormal formation of the hip - pain & lameness

Chiari malformation/syringomyelia (CMSM) - brain protrudes through back of skull, then fluid builds up in spinal cord - can cause extreme pain

Eye scheme - Progressive retinal atrophy (PRA crd 4 / crd 1) - eye disease leading to blindness

DNA Tests - available

Neuronal ceroid lipofuscinosis 7 (NCL7) - affects nerve cells and is lethal

Progressive retinal atrophy PRA crd 4 / crd 1 - see above

Chondrodystrophy (CDDY & IVDD) - abnormal discs in spine - pain

Merle coat colour - associated with hearing and sight problems

Lafora disease - neurological - a type of epilepsy

Other Diseases - no current health scheme or DNA test available

Hydrocephalus - excess fluid on the brain - pain, headaches, nausea

Fragile bones - due to extremely small size

Poor dentition - overcrowded teeth due to extreme small head size - pain and discomfort - extraction of teeth.