

Buying a Chihuahua (smooth coat) Puppy

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



Avoid extremely small dogs, or those with very short noses or very protruding eyes, as these exaggerated features are frequently associated with serious health problems

✓ 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)

Official Health Schemes

- BVA/KC eye scheme - DBRG recommends that all dogs should be visually examined for inherited eye disease before breeding
- BVA/KC testing scheme for CM/SM – Chiari-like malformation/syringomyelia

DNA tests relevant to breed

Genetic laboratories offer several tests for rare inherited diseases in this breed, including

- Chondrodystrophy (CDDY and IVDD)
- Neuronal ceroid lipofuscinosis 7 (NCL7)

Other tests

- Putnam scoring for patella luxation

<https://www.the-british-chihuahua-club.org.uk/index.php>
www.dbrg.uk/guide-to-buying-a-puppy.html



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Brief explanations and other diseases that may be more common in the breed – if in doubt then consult your vet for guidance

Official Health Schemes

The BVA/KC eye testing scheme is available for all breeds, and checks for many inherited abnormalities that can cause progressive blindness or pain

CM/SM - Chiari-like malformation/syringomyelia - mismatch in size between brain (too big) and skull (too short) causing pain and neurological signs/pockets of fluid in the spinal cord

DNA tests relevant to breed

Neuronal ceroid lipofuscinosis 7 (NCL7) – progressive, lethal neurological disease

Chondrodystrophy (CDDY & IVDD) – short legs and abnormal discs in spine

Merle coat colour – linked to hearing and vision problems, especially in very white dogs

Other Diseases - no current health scheme or DNA test available

Dental problems – possible issues include retention of milk teeth, overcrowding of teeth due to the small jaw, and tooth infections

Eye problems - such as ulcers and 'dry eye' –lack of normal tear production

Fragile bones - due to extremely small size

Hydrocephalus - fluid in the brain due to domed skull, causing pain, headaches, nausea