

May 3, 2016



Ms. Marina Gerasimova, President  
International Black Russian Terrier Club

Ms. Galina Yatsenko, President  
Black Russian Terrier Club of Russia

Dear Ms. Gersaimova and Ms. Yatsenko:

This letter will confirm that the genetic test for Canine Hyperuricosuria (HU) is NOT a required test by the Black Russian Terrier Club of America to obtain health test certification from the Canine Health Information Center. The ONLY health tests required by BRTCA to receive certification are:

Hip Dysplasia  
Elbow Dysplasia  
Eye examination by a boarded ACVO Ophthalmologist  
Cardiac Evaluation  
Juvenile Laryngeal Paralysis & Polyneuropathy (JLPP)

This can be verified at: <http://www.caninehealthinfo.org/brdreqs.html?breed=BRU>

While there has been a lot of pressure from several individuals to make HU testing a requirement, it has not for several reasons. This issue was last addressed by the Board at its April 14, 2015 meeting. The main reason is that the current genetic test is only a "linked marker test," which means at any future time when another allele is found, the carrier, affected, and clear status of previously tested dogs could be changed. That is, dogs formerly identified as carrier or affected could be clear. Most clear will stay clear. Requiring a "linked marker test" as a required health test for CHIC certification creates a situation where uninformed breeders will spay/neuter and then lose valuable dogs/traits in trying to wipe out a disease. Dalmatians have a specific HU mutation in their breed and the same mutation cannot be applied to BRTs and other breeds.

There are 21 breeds listed for eligible HU genetic testing. Of those 21 breeds, 15 do not list HU as part of their CHIC health testing requirements, 1 has HU listed as an "elective" test among other elective choices, 2 breeds list HU as "optional" and 3 breeds could not be verified. ZERO breeds recognized as having HU require the test for certification, including Dalmatians!

While current research SUGGESTS a correlation between affected (HU/HU) BRTs for increased risk in symptomatic stone formation, specifically urate stones, there is no evidence to say how much that risk is and whether this is a polygenetic disease (as in hip dysplasia) where several genes have to combine to create the stone formation or there are environmental factors that cause an affected dog to form stones.

If you need additional information, please let us know.

Very truly yours,

*Marilyn Powell*

Marilyn Powell  
Immediate Past President

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