



Explanation of Genetic Health Issues in The Goldendoodle

The following is an attempt on my part to briefly explain the disease related to each health screen required of GANA breeders for their breeding dogs. The main diseases of concern for our breed are the ones we test for. We, as GANA breeders, pride ourselves on staying abreast of all the current research & data regarding diseases that threaten our breed, and we are dedicated to attacking anything that appears to be on the rise. GANA exceeds ALL other breed parent clubs when it comes to commitment to the FUTURE of the Goldendoodle, so the sooner we can wipe out a threat the more we've protected our beloved breed.

Why wouldn't a breeder who screens for everything NOT join GANA? How can there possibly be a plausible explanation?

If a breeder tells you they don't screen for one or any of these health issues, RUN. Far FAR away. The price we pay for health testing is minimal when considering the future of this incredible breed.

THAT BEING SAID, and while we've done everything humanly possible to screen out genetic disease, there are plenty of heartbreaking evil recessive genes that can creep up that are beyond our control. They happen despite our best efforts, as in any breed. Because of Hybrid vigor they are rare in this breed, thank goodness. But you must be aware that your breeder cannot be responsible for these.

OFA – Orthopedic Foundation for Animals. A private, non-profit organization founded to improve the health and well-being of companion animals, through reduction in the incidence of genetic disease by utilizing better breeding practices.

OFA Hips – a series of x-rays taken of the conformation of the hip joints to rule out hip dysplasia. Acceptable ratings are Fair, Good, Excellent.

OFA Elbows – a series of x-rays taken of the conformation of the elbow joints to rule out elbow dysplasia

OFA patella's – A manual exam of the kneecap performed by a vet to rule out a loose kneecap, prone to popping out or luxating.

OFA Cardiac – a check of the heart to rule out heart disease

OFA Eyes – a series of tests performed by a board certified Canine Ophthalmologist to rule out genetic eye diseases in canines

DNA tests – specific to the Goldendoodle breed and performed by credible DNA labs

DM Degenerative Myelopathy – a Neurologic condition equivalent to ALS in humans

VWb – bleeding disorder equivalent to Hemophilia in humans

NEWS – Neonatal Encephalopathy With Seizures – affects young pups typically from birth, with death prior to 7 weeks.



PRA GR1 – A Golden Retriever related retinal degeneration eye disease affecting dogs 6-7 years of age

PRA GR2 – A Golden Retriever related retinal degeneration disease affecting dogs 4-5 years of age

PRA prcd – A degenerative eye disease of Goldendoodles ages 3-5 years old, affecting dim and bright lights (night blindness)

ICH – Ichthyosis is an inherited condition of flaky skin and dull hair, much like extreme dandruff.

Non-health related testing

IC – Incorrect coats are those with improper coat/furnishings. Think a Goldendoodle with no beard or hair on the face, like the Golden Retriever

No-shed – those who carry the gene for no to low shedding