

Updated Database Policy for Clear by Parentage

The SCWT Database has updated its policy on listing a dog as “Clear by Parentage” and will only list dogs whose sire and dam have each tested clear. This policy will mirror that of the Orthopedic Foundation for Animals (“OFA”) one of the largest canine health databases in the world.

Please note this policy **only** applies to the SCWT Database which is owned and managed by the SCWTCA Endowment, Inc. If there are any changes to SCWTCA policies, that will be determined by SCWTCA, Inc.

Why we are doing this

The SCWT Database records the results of 6 tests which are considered “direct mutation” tests, which means that those results are accurate and not open to interpretation. For these types of tests, the Database will list clear by parentage for one generation, mirroring OFA’s policy. “OFA will only clear by parentage for one generation, due to the possibility of new mutations or as yet undiscovered gene mutations.” You can read more about OFA’s policy at <https://ofa.org/about/ofa-policies/>

Additionally, we consulted with Dr. Paula Henthorn and Dr. Meryl Littman. Unlike OFA, we do not require DNA identity profiles to list dogs as clear by parentage. Both Drs. Littman and Henthorn are concerned by the possibility of unwittingly false parentage and believe that “the only way to really know a puppy’s genotype is to test it.” We are paying heed to their recommendations.

Finally, while errors in obtaining DNA samples and in labs are fortunately very rare, they can occur. Should a Wheaten be deemed clear as the result of such an error, it could go undiscovered if multiple generations are Clear by Parentage.

What does this mean

Let’s explain with an example. “Rover” is the son of a sire and a dam each of whom tested clear and whose results are already in the Database. If Rover’s owner does not provide a DNA result, Rover will be designated “Clear by Parentage” based on both parents’ results.

When Rover sires a litter, **NONE** of his offspring can be listed as “Clear by Parentage,” no matter the status of the dam. All of his puppies would need to present DNA results to be recorded if they wish.

We have contacted the owners of dogs who were previously listed as Clear by Parentage that are not in line with this current policy to inform them we have made this change.

Please send any questions to comments@scwtodb.org