

# BFCA *Health Times*

Health Committee chairman: Nancy McDonald  
Editor and committee member: Vickie Halstead  
Committee members: Paula Hendricks, Sheryl Kapella, Joanne Rubin  
Committee consultants: Larry Letsch DVM, Anne Jones

## IN THIS ISSUE

Fall 2013

Reminder: Buy your 2014 Bichon Frise Champions for Health Calendars!!!!  
OFA versus PennHIP Certifications by Joanne Rubin  
CHIC report by Paula Hendricks  
Update on Safe Prevention of Canine Parasites article by Vickie Halstead

## **2014 BICHON FRISE CALENDAR** Bichon Frise Champions for Health

The BFCA Health Committee is proud to feature Bichons with big wins and healthy credentials in this beautifully photographed monthly calendar covering January through December 2014.

**Holiday gifts are just a click away!!!!**

<http://www.bichonhealth.org/DonateShop.htm>



Net proceeds of sales are donated to BFCA's general fund, the BFCA Health Fund and the BFCA Rescue Trust.

## **Comparison of Hip Certifications: OFA versus PennHIP**

### **Joanne Rubin, RN**

A responsible Bichon Frise breeder should be screening all breeding stock for hip dysplasia and certifying with at least one of the two main certifying organizations, OFA or PennHIP. These two options will be discussed in this article. It is the BFCA Health Committee's hope that PennHIP can be included in order to receive a CHIC number.

The "OFA" method of evaluating the hip joint uses an xray that shows the extended view of the pelvis. A preliminary evaluation can be attained before 24 months of age, or a permanent evaluation on or after 24 months of age. The dog is also recommended to have permanent identification (microchip or tattoo), which is noted in the published database results. OFA does recommend chemical restraint (either sedation or general anesthesia) but does not require it for evaluation.

So, in contrast, what is PennHIP? The acronym stands for the University of Pennsylvania Hip Improvement Program. This method involves evaluating the canine hip both qualitatively and quantitatively. The qualitative aspect involves assessing the hip joint conformation and any evidence of dysplastic changes, and the quantitative aspect involves measuring the joint itself for laxity. The University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine developed this method in 1983. After conducting research and determining that the method was capable of estimating future susceptibility to developing hip dysplasia. The University of Pennsylvania established PennHIP as a public program in 1993. PennHIP is also a not-for-profit organization, and has an established database although individual scores are not currently published on the website.

The main components of both programs are using x-rays to examine the hips, procedures performed by trained Veterinarians, and a database containing the information. The goal is to reduce the occurrence and severity of hip dysplasia.

The main difference in the PennHIP procedure versus the OFA procedure is the (x-ray) technique. OFA uses one x-ray of the hips for certification. PennHIP uses three separate views of the hips in different positions. Their opinion is that the three views better measure hip slackness and fitting when compared to other techniques.

PennHIP has great value to any breeder based on the additional views, which show the laxity in more than one position. It is a more comprehensive and dynamic evaluation of the hips. The breed laxity statistics have been generated for August 2013. The statistics are available to all certified PennHIP veterinarians.

The PennHIP technique tends to cost more than the OFA. The reason for the increased charge is the added x-ray views and the additional training a Vet must have to be approved to perform the PennHIP technique. The PennHIP method can be performed on animals as young as 16 weeks of age, although many films are taken at one year or later. The films are submitted to the PennHIP analysis center that then processes the evaluation of the films and sends a report to the owner and veterinarian. The report includes information on the owner (name, address, etc.), information on the dog (breed, age, sex, microchip number, etc.), qualitative evaluation including evidence of dysplasia, etc. and quantitative measurements including distraction index (DI). There is also a line graph at the bottom of the report, which demonstrates where the dog's DI falls in a percentage comparison amongst other dogs of the same breed.

The line graph ranges from 0% to 100%, with 50% as the median. Dogs to the left of 50% have higher percentage "scores" and tighter hips. Dogs to the right of 50% have lower percentage "scores" and looser hips. For example, a dog with a 90% PennHIP rating has hips tighter than 90% of the rest of the population in the database for that breed. This would be an excellent dog to breed to if gaining tighter hips is the objective. Conversely, a dog with a 30% rating has hips tighter than only 30% of the rest of the population – in other words 70% of the population in the database for this breed has tighter hips than this individual. This dog would not be a good breeding individual if the goal is to produce tighter hips. It is recommended to breed dogs to the left of the median (in other words towards tighter hips) if the goal is to produce hips with less laxity and therefore less hip dysplasia.

Some breeders only use and believe in one of the two techniques, PennHIP or OFA, and use that technique exclusively. Very few breeders screen all breeding stock using both techniques. To this point there is no rule about which is truly better. The bottom line is that all Bichon Frise breeding stock and the vast majority of at least 3 generations behind any individual dog should be certified with at least one of these organizations, or the governing organization in the dog's country of origin in the case of a foreign dog.

The other main controversy surrounding use of PennHIP is that it does not fail any hip as OFA does. PennHIP scores the hips based on a percentile rating as compared to other dogs in the breed. A truly bad hip is simply rated at a lower percentile. It is left up to the breeder to determine what percentile rating they feel comfortable with including in their breeding program. PennHIP does however require mandatory submission of all radiographs taken using their technique that should provide a better rounded picture of the problem within any particular breed. PennHIP also uses more scientific measurement techniques to arrive at their rating than OFA which is a much more subjective rating. In PennHIP the two hip joints are rated separately with their own score, but the percentile rating is based on the worse individual hip score.

PennHIP is more expensive than OFA, nevertheless, it is growing in popularity and the benefit- as breeders who have fully adopted PennHip have found- is a much reduced incidence of hip dysplasia in their lines and the knowledge that they are contributing to the overall health of a breed.

Quick comparison		
	PennHIP	OFA
Veterinarian certification required?	Yes	No
Anesthesia required?	Yes	No
Cost to client	\$200-\$400	\$35 + radiograph, veterinarian fees
Earliest age of evaluation (for certified results)	16 weeks	2 years
Radiographs required	3	1
Scoring system	Quantitative: Calculated Distraction Index 0-1 (0 is the best) evaluated by trained veterinarian	Qualitative: 7-point system from excellent to severe, based on evaluation of three independent radiologists
Recognized by AKC	No	Yes
Year founded	1993	1966

October 2, 2013

## **CHIC REPORT 3<sup>RD</sup> QUARTER 2013**

### **SUMMARY OF TOTAL CHIC NUMBERS AND UPDATES FOR BFCA TO DATE**

ORIGINAL QUALIFIERS	382	July 2007
TOTAL NEW QUALIFIERS	798	Oct. 2013
ORIGINAL UPDATES	52	July 2007
TOTAL UPDATES	344	Oct. 2013

## **CHIC 5 STAR AWARDS**

A CHIC 5 Star Award is issued to any Bichon owned by a BFCA member with a CHIC number, has passed the CHIC tests, and additionally has obtained any two of the following (see <http://www.bichonhealth.org/CHIC.htm> for more information and applications):

1. Cardiac OFA certification by cardiologist or practitioner
2. Legg-Calve-Perthes OFA Certification
3. DNA registered with AKC
4. Urinalysis that tests for diabetes, bladder infection, crystals
5. Bile acid blood test to rule out liver shunt
6. Standard veterinary blood panel including:
  - CBC (complete blood count): WBC, RBC, hemoglobin
  - Electrolytes, BUN, Creatinine (to assess kidney function)
  - Blood glucose level (to rule out diabetes)
  - Liver enzymes (to rule out liver disease)
  - Pancreas enzymes (to rule out pancreas disease)

All new CHIC 5 Star Awards will be posted in each issue of The Health Times.

### **Safe Prevention of Canine Parasites by Vickie Halstead**

The article I wrote on this topic was posted in the last issue of the Health Times, and later posted on our Bichon health website [www.bichonhealth.org](http://www.bichonhealth.org).

I added more detailed information about safe prevention of ticks and heartworm. To read the updated article, go to <http://www.bichonhealth.org/HealthInfo/PreventiveParasites.htm>.

## CHIC 5 STAR AWARDS

The BFCA Health Committee has issued the first of the CHIC 5 Star Awards to the following:

### **2009**

---

Merrymaker's Living Doll	Cindy Morey	11/15/09
Merryell Absolutely Spellbound	Mayno Blanding	11/29/09
Jasme Raggedy Ann	Mayno Blanding	11/29/09
Victoire's Cheers to Austin	Vickie Halstead	11/30/09
Victoire L'Amour Champagne Lace	Vickie Halstead	11/30/09
Victoire Juniper's Hot Tamale	Vickie Halstead	11/30/09
Victorie's Norwegian Red	Vickie Halstead	11/30/09
Victoire Melodie's Bleu Reign	Melodie Michel	11/30/09
Victoire Diamond Rio Citrine	David & Darlene Scheiris	12/02/09

### **2010**

---

Mybliss Galway's Irish Imp	Nancy Noonan	06/06/10
White Shadow Galaway Hide N'Seek	Nancy Noonan	06/06/10
Allure's U Chenoa Joe	Lisa Des Camps	10/01/10
Victorie Gerie No Lemon Gemstone	Vickie Halstead, Mary Wangsness	11/30/10
Paray Parasol of Knollwood	Susan & Dean Anneser	12/1/10
Paray's Secret Encounter	Susan & Dean Anneser	12/1/10

### **2011**

---

Merrymaker's Southern Charm of Bibelot	Cindy Morey	1/13/11
MyBliss Petite Coquette	Loretta McDonald	3/16/11
Jabree's Jack of Hearts	Nita & Mark Gryan	3/23/11
Bibelot's Sugar Plum Dancer	Paula Hendricks	6/6/11
Bibelot's Purple Heart O'Mine	Matt & Paula Abbott	9/12/11
Jabree's Bellefleur La Jolie	Nita & Mark Gryan	12/19/11

### **2012**

---

Bijone's Mon Cheri Music of the Nite	Susan Brockett, Barbara Shaffer Nicole Shaffer	1/4/12
Mybliss Dandy Devil Wears White	Myra Wotton, Jan & Alan Shetzer	1/5/12
Crème's Fool's Rush In	Carol Haines	5/3/12
Crème's Brandy Alexanderia	Carol Haines	5/3/12
Crème's Madam President	Carol Haines	5/3/12
Mybliss Expertly Engineered	Myra Wotton	7/26/12
Luvit's A Rolex Cellissima At Dalnavert	Linda Ross, Bernice & Brian Lucas	8/1/12
Saks Winning Card	Sandra & Kieth Hanson	8/6/12
Saks Hamelot Little Drummer Boy	Sandra & Kieth Hanson	8/6/12
Bella Diamella Sunday Surprise	Stephanie Uva, Katherine Dillon, Lisa Des Camps	8/19/12
MyBliss Sport Edition At Bella	Stephanie Uva, Myra Wotton	8/19/12
Luvit's A Rolex Yacht-master At Dalnavert	Bernice & Brian Lucas, Linda Ross,	11/7/12

	Marilyn Torrance	
Luvit's a Rolex Daytona At Dalnavert	Linda Ross, Bernice & Brian Lucas	11/26/12
Bibelot's Destiny Awaits	Paula Hendricks, Gina Pantely	11/26/12
Victoire Phantom's Devil in Disguise	Diana Bugos, Vickie Halstead	12/4/12

### **2013**

---

Luvit's Dalnavert Double Destiny	Linda Ross, Bernice & Brian Lucas	1/11/13
Craigdale Chip Off The Rock	Cheryl Blair & Patricia Dale Hunter	2/28/13
Knollwood's Henry	Susan Anneser & Dean Anneser	3/11/13
Luvit's Dalnavert Olympic Omegamania	Jill SanFilippo, Linda Ross, Bernice & Brian Lucas	3/11/13
Bibelot's Witchful Thinking	Paula Hendricks, Janet Jamison	5/13/13
Miabella Dancing Queen	Sheryl Kapella	6/3/13
Miabella Head Over Heels	Sheryl Kapella	6/3/13
Hollyhock She Returns	Debra Gibb, Linda Rowe	6/18/13
Doriann's Saks Hollywood Bombshell	Michelle and Carol Konick	10/29/13
Doriann's Tennessee Gentleman Jack	Michelle and Carol Konick	10/29/13
Doriann's The Duke of Prelude	Michelle and Carol Knoick	10/29/13