

## Health Defects and Testing in the Boxer Breed

As a responsible breeder I am dedicated to doing all that I can to ensure that my Boxers have had the health testing they need in order to produce healthy puppies and live long, happy lives. Below is a list of the common Boxer genetic diseases and the tests that can be performed to determine genetic fitness for breeding. On my Males/Females page you can see what testing has been done for each of my Boxers and the results of those tests. If you have any questions or want more detailed information regarding health testing Boxers I would recommend visiting the website of the American Boxer Club at <http://www.americanboxerclub.org/health-screening.html>

Defect: **Aortic Stenosis/Sub-Aortic Stenosis (AS/SAS)**

Is a heart defect in that there is narrowing of the aorta which causes less blood flow. This can result in fainting and sudden death.

Test: **Doppler Echocardiogram**

Is an ultrasound of the heart that detects abnormal flow velocities.

Defect: **Boxer Cardiomyopathy or Arrhythmogenic Right Ventricular Cardiomyopathy (ARVC)**

Is an electrical conduction disorder that causes the heart to beat erratically sometimes. If this happens often, collapse or sudden death can result.

Test: **Holter Monitor**

Is a 24-Hour EKG that is used to test for PVCs that should be done yearly.

Test: **DNA Test**

It can tell which dogs have the gene for ARVC; one-time DNA cheek swab.

Defect: **Hip Dysplasia**

Is a malformation of the hip joint which can lead to osteoarthritis. The dog suffers pain with osteoarthritis and can become weak and even lame.

Test: **OFA Hips**

Is an X-ray of the pelvic joint.

Defect: **Hypothyroidism**

Is an inactive thyroid gland. It can cause hair loss, obesity, lethargy, and skin problems. Quality of life is reduced due to the symptoms it causes.

Test: **OFA Thyroid**

Is a blood test to detect autoimmune thyroiditis. Only a few places in the country perform this full panel test.

Defect: **Corneal Dystrophy**

Is an ulcer that results when one or more layers of the cornea are affected. This can be recurring or become a chronic issue in some dogs.

Test: **No test available**

The only way you know your dog has this is they are afflicted with the ulcers.

Defect: **Cancer**

Mast cell, lymphoma, and other cancers are prevalent in Boxers.

Test: **No test available**

Constantly examine your dog for any lumps or bumps and get regular check-ups.

Defect: **Bloat or Gastric Dialation-Volvus (GDV)**

Is where the stomach becomes distended with air, twists on itself, and cuts off the blood supply to the heart. This can cause sudden drop in blood pressure and death.

Test: **X-rays of stomach and surgery to correct torsion**

To help prevent bloat slow the dog's speed of eating and restrict its activities directly after eating a meal.

**Defect: Degenerative Myelopathy (DM)**

Is a slow progressive wasting disease of the hindquarters that affects the central nervous system, which consists of the brain and spinal cord. DM has 4 progressive stages:

1. Toe dragging or knuckling over;
2. Crossing of the back legs and mild loss of side-to-side hip control;
3. Moderate to severe loss of side-to-side hip control;
4. Total hind end paralysis.

**Test: DNA test**

It clearly identified dogs that are clear (have 2 normal copies of the gene), those who are carriers (have 1 normal copy of the gene and 1 mutated copy of the gene), and those who are at much higher risk of developing DM (have 2 copies of the gene).