



*Yorkshire Terrier Club of America, Inc.*

**Matina E. Johnson, Secretary**

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The Yorkshire terrier is a generally healthy breed with a life expectancy of 15-18 years.

Yorkshire Terriers are a YTCA Board approved CHIC breed.

Our CHIC requirements are:

- ~ OFA Patellas (a knee condition which can occur in any toy breed)
- ~ OFA Eyes (an eye screening that can rule out juvenile cataracts, persistent pupillary membranes and over 50 other eye diseases)

The OFA Patellar and OFA Eye tests are only registrable after one year of age and the OFA Eye screening is recommended every 3 years thereafter.

The Yorkshire Terrier Breed only has 2 definitive genetic tests, prcd-PRA and PLL, both eye tests. prcd-PRA can cause early onset blindness and is 100% avoidable with genetic testing at any age.

There are other conditions which may affect the breed such as Liver Shunt, Encephalitis and PLE. The best test for liver shunt is bile acid testing which can be a good indicator of liver health and can be discussed with your breeder. Research is ongoing for encephalitis. The YTCA is also currently funding a research grant through the Canine Health Foundation to identify a marker for PLE so that this may be added to our list of definitive genetic testing.

As in all toy breeds, dental maintenance is important. Daily/weekly brushings will help your dog have healthy teeth throughout their lifetime.

This Health Statement was approved by the Yorkshire Terrier Club of America on August, 2019.