



HCA Health Committee Policy

Policy Approved: October 15, 2008

- 1.0 **Purpose and Mission:** The primary purpose of the Health Committee (HC) is to provide support for the **HCA Constitution Article I Section 2. Objective A)** to encourage and promote quality in the breeding of purebred Havanese and to do all possible to bring their natural qualities to perfection. The HC mission is “Pawsitively Achieving Wellness”.
- 2.0 **Basic Functions:** The HC shall function to advise the HCA on matters related to the health and welfare of the breed which includes but is not limited to the following:
 - 2.1. To gather and share with the Members scientific information and data analysis vital to the improvement of Havanese health.
 - 2.2. To recommend to the Members educational programs, procedures and research relevant to Havanese health.
- 3.0 **Responsibilities:** The HC shall be responsible for:
 - 3.1. Reviewing pertinent canine health related information (utilize OFA, CERF, CHIC, CHF, and other credible sources of data available).
 - 3.2. Recommending general health related testing protocols, as well as requirements for OFA, CHIC, HCA Health Awards, etc. Note: Proposed changes to testing requirements must be approved by a majority vote of the HC members prior to submitting them to the HCA Board of Directors (BOD) for final approval.
 - 3.3. Maintaining the HCA Health Awards certificate program and other health related awards. Award preparation may be delegated or outsourced. Normal business expenses (up to \$500 annually) associated with purchasing, printing and mailing Health Awards are pre-approved by the BOD.
 - 3.4. Conducting a periodic (suggest every five+ years or as needed) breed survey and reporting findings to the Membership. Survey may be delegated or outsourced. Note: The first baseline Havanese breed survey was conducted and reported in 2004.
 - 3.5. Updating the HCA website with current health related information, which should at a minimum include basic information on breed specific health problems; links to applicable research projects of interest to the breed; health award information and recipient listing; and links to other HCA supported sites such as OFA, CHIC, CERF, etc.
 - 3.6. Recommending HC Policy changes to reflect current committee responsibilities and to incorporate other HCA or AKC recommendations. Note: Proposed changes to the HC Policy must be approved by a majority vote of HC members prior to submitting them to the HCA BOD for final approval.
 - 3.7. Provide contact(s) to serve as the HCA HC interface with external health organizations such as CHF, OFA, CHIC, CERF, etc. This includes making recommendations on who should represent HCA at conferences and other health related events.
 - 3.8. Recommend policy and donations as appropriate to support health related funding and research studies for 501(c)(3) Foundations (e.g. CHF Donor Advised Fund).