



HCA Health Committee Awards Policy

General Award Information:

The Health Committee has restructured the current Health related awards which can be earned by HCA members. Awards earned at the individual dog level have been reviewed to enable earlier participation, to broaden the scope of testing for those so inclined and to reward that dedication, and to group testing together in a logical order and progression based on age. The entry level awards should be easily attainable for most Havanese owners, while the more advanced awards will encourage an ongoing commitment to higher level of health testing.

New awards will be presented at the breeder level as well as production based Health awards for stud dogs and brood bitches within our breed. Our intent is to foster a separate level of recognition for breeders who excel in mentoring their owners and encouraging them to health test. Increasing the breadth and depth of Havanese health history overall in the OFA database is a long term goal and hopefully will be one of the benefits from this approach. In addition, owners themselves will be able to make better breeding decisions in the future based on this information.

These new **Top Paw Awards** will be presented at the 2008 National for meeting the criteria by the end of 2007. An award submission form will be available by the beginning of 2008 for member use.

Presenting the Top Paw Health Awards Program...

SPOTLIGHT ON HAVANESE HEALTH
Presented by
The Havanese Club of America Health Committee
Category: Health Policies & Priorities

Top Paw Health Awards

Award Level	Requirements
BRONZE	BAER CERF Patellas
SILVER	BAER CERF Patellas Cardiac
GOLD	BAER CERF Patellas Cardiac Hips Elbows LCP (Legg-Calve-Perthes)
PLATINUM	Over 7 Years Old BAER CERF Patellas Cardiac Hips Elbows LCP (Legg-Calve-Perthes)

PROMOTING AND AWARDING EXCELLENCE IN HEALTH TESTING
TOGETHER WE SHINE!



HCA Health Committee Awards Policy

Individual Dog Level Top Paw Awards

Award Level	Current CERF	OFA BAER	OFA Patellas	OFA Cardiac	OFA Hips	OFA Elbows	OFA LCP	Dog over age 7
Bronze Paw								
Silver Paw								
Gold Paw								
Platinum Paw								

General Notes:

- Havanese must be owned or co-owned by HCA members in good standing during the award year. The HCA member must complete the award submission form if the co-owner is not a HCA member. It is not necessary to be an HCA member when testing is performed.
- Passing results are required on all tests (passing is defined as the dog is issued an OFA or a CERF certificate for each test).
- All tests must be submitted to CERF and OFA and be available as part of their public database.
- CERF number must be current (exam must be performed during the award year).
- OFA Cardiac may be performed by a veterinary cardiologist, other veterinary specialist or veterinary practitioner.

Age Notes:

- Cardiac -- Dogs must be 12 months of age or older to the day at the time of the examination.
- Hips, Elbows, LCP -- Dogs must be 24 months of age or older to the day at the time of the radiography.
- For dogs over age 7, the CERF exam must be performed once on or after their seventh birthday.

Award Details:

- Paper certificates in keeping with the overall award theme will be presented at the HCA annual awards banquet to the owner of each dog who has qualified for the award and who has submitted the required verification to the Health Committee.
- After receiving any of these awards, the owner will also receive a graphic file version of the award logo which may be displayed on the webpage of the dog who won the award. In all cases, this online award logo must link back to the Health section of the HCA website.
- The Platinum Paw Award is designed to be a one time award for each recipient rather than a recurring, annual award. All other Individual Dog Level awards may be earned annually as long as the recipient continues to receive a current CERF number.



HCA Health Committee Awards Policy

Rationale for Individual Dog Award Changes:

The Bronze Paw award now consists of tests which can be completed at one year of age to provide encouragement for younger dogs and their owners to begin a healthy habit of health testing and to continue down the road towards further health testing in later years.

The Silver Paw award adds OFA Cardiac, another test available to owners after their dog has reached one year of age. The Health Committee recognizes that Cardiac may be an area of concern which we wish to monitor and by encouraging a broad base of cardiac testing within our breed we hope to assist owners in making prudent breeding decisions and to gain more data with which to judge the extent of any problem which may exist. The committee realizes that a single test performed as early as one year of age will not exclude later development of cardiac issues but feels this is a step in the right direction to gather preliminary data. We fully expect to modify cardiac testing at some point in the future to require periodic testing as the dog ages but would first like to have more data on which to base that decision.

The Gold Paw award adds orthopedic testing which is available for OFA certification after age two. By grouping hips and elbows together, it will be easy for owners to obtain both tests in a single visit to their vet, will limit the number of times the dog might possibly need to be sedated for the x-rays and will offer a price incentive at most vets for doing both tests together. Elbow was added in order for owners to rule out elbow dysplasia which does seem to exist at some level within our breed and to also provide the Health Committee with a more statistically significant level of testing so that we can more fully assess any ongoing health issues with elbow dysplasia. OFA Legg-Calve-Perthes certification is available at no cost if a dog has received a passing hip grade and the owner sends in the appropriate form to OFA after receiving that passing hip certificate. Again, there have been isolated reports of LCP within our breed.

The Platinum Paw award is designed to provide special recognition to our Veteran dogs and their owners who have continued to health test. The age of seven was chosen as the cutoff for the last passing CERF certificate since that was originally recommended by Dr. Kirk Gelatt as the age to differentiate between heritable cataracts and those which would be considered to be attributed to normal age related changes.



HCA Health Committee Awards Policy

Stud Dog/Brood Bitch Level Top Paw Awards

Top Paw Award Requirements:

- 🐾 Stud Dog must have sired 10 or more offspring who qualify for the Gold Paw Award.
- 🐾 Brood Bitch must have produced 5 or more offspring who qualify for the Gold Paw Award.
- 🐾 Stud Dog or Brood Bitch receiving the award must themselves have a current Gold Paw Award.

Top Paw Award of Excellence Requirements:

- 🐾 Stud Dog must have sired 20 or more offspring who qualify for the Gold Paw Award.
- 🐾 Brood Bitch must have produced 10 or more offspring who qualify for the Gold Paw Award.
- 🐾 Stud Dog or Brood Bitch receiving the award must themselves have a current Gold Paw Award.

Notes:

- 🐾 If Stud Dog or Brood Bitch is over age seven, only one passing CERF certificate issued after reaching age seven is required.
- 🐾 If Stud Dog or Brood Bitch is no longer alive at the inception of this program, a one time exception will be allowed. That deceased dog or bitch will be allowed to qualify for this award if at the time of inception of this program the dog/bitch had a CHIC number with passing results for CERF, OFA BAER, OFA Hips and OFA Patellas (in lieu of meeting the additional requirements which would have been imposed on that dog after its death). All other requirements for this award remain the same however.
- 🐾 Stud Dog/Brood Bitch owner must be a member of HCA in good standing at the time this award is received.
- 🐾 The qualifying offspring do not need to be owned by HCA members nor does the Stud Dog/Brood Bitch owner need to have been an HCA member at the time when these qualifying offspring were produced.

Award Details:

- 🐾 Paper certificates in keeping with the overall award theme will be presented at the HCA annual awards banquet to the owner of each dog who has qualified for the award and who has submitted the required verification to the Health Committee.
- 🐾 After receiving any of these awards, the owner will also receive a graphic file version of the award logo which may be displayed on the webpage of the dog who won the award. In all cases, this online award logo must link back to the Health section of the HCA website.

Rationale for Changes:

Never before has HCA offered a Health related award recognizing Stud Dogs and Brood Bitches who have themselves produced a certain level of health offspring. The intent of the Health Committee with these awards is to provide an incentive for those breeders whose dogs produce a greater number of offspring to encourage the owners of those offspring to rise to the level of full health testing on those offspring. In doing so, we will in turn reap the benefits of more depth and breadth in the health testing available online through the OFA and CERF databases.

Just as with other HCA Production based awards (ROM and ROMX) we take a tiered approach to recognition. Also, the Health Committee recognizes that as complete health testing becomes more widespread, the minimum number of health tested offspring used to qualify for each tier will likely increase.



HCA Health Committee Awards Policy

Breeder Level Top Paw Awards

Top Paw Breeder Award Requirements:

- 🐾 Breeder must have produced at least 10 dogs/bitches (any combination thereof) who have each received the Gold Paw Award.

Top Paw Breeder of Excellence Award Requirements:

- 🐾 Breeder must have produced at least 20 dogs/bitches (any combination thereof) who have each received the Gold Paw Award.

Notes:

- 🐾 Breeder must be a member of HCA in good standing at the time this award is received.
- 🐾 The qualifying dogs/bitches do not need to be owned by HCA members nor does the Breeder need to have been an HCA member at the time when these qualifying dogs/bitches were produced.

Award Details:

- 🐾 Instead of paper certificates, lapel pins in keeping with the overall design of the award theme will be presented at the HCA annual awards banquet to each breeder who has qualified for the award and who has submitted the required verification to the Health Committee. The Health Committee feels that the level of commitment on the part of Breeders meeting this goal merits the additional recognition available with a lapel pin.
- 🐾 After receiving any of these awards, the Breeder will also receive a graphic file version of the award logo which may be displayed on the webpage of the dog who won the award. In all cases, this online award logo must link back to the Health section of the HCA website.

Rationale for Changes:

Never before has HCA offered a Health related award to recognize the breeders who work diligently with owners of their dogs to encourage health testing. The intent of the Health Committee with these awards is to provide an incentive for all breeders to mentor their owners in the health testing arena and to encourage full health testing of the dogs they produce. In doing so, breeders themselves will obtain more complete knowledge regarding their own breeding programs and we as a breed will in turn reap the benefits of more depth and breadth in the health testing available online through the OFA and CERF databases.

Just as with other HCA Breeder recognition awards (Breeder of Merit and Breeder of Excellence) we take a tiered approach to recognition. Also, the Health Committee recognizes that as complete health testing becomes more widespread, the minimum number of health tested offspring used to qualify for each tier may increase.

Original Awards Policy Approved: October 11, 2007

HCA Health Committee:

Chair: Lynn Nieto

Members: Cherie Belcher, Connie Field, Karon Fowler, Joan Little, Rita Thomas, Mary Ellen Vickery