

ISSA Auscultation Form

ashia Landman

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Owner's Name:

Dog's Registered Name: _

All breeding dogs (and highly recommended for all) in the ISSA are required to have an auscultation of their heart before they will be given a Breeding Certificate and should be done over the age of 12 months in order to ensure they are in the best health possible. While there are exceptions, virtually all common congenital heart defects are associated with the presence of a cardiac murmur. A clinical examination is the most cost-effective method for identifying Congenital Heart Disease in dogs.

Although it is not required for a Breeding Certificate, breeders might be interested in obtaining OFA cardiac certification. Details of this program can be found at: ofa.org/diseases/other-diseases/cardiac-disease

Information provided by a certified veterinarian:

Cardiac auscultation should be performed in a quiet, distraction-free environment. The animal should be standing and restrained, but sedative drugs should be avoided. Panting must be controlled and, if necessary, the dog should be given time to rest and acclimate to the environment. The clinician should able to identify the cardiac valve areas for auscultation. The examiner should gradually move the stethoscope across all valve areas and should auscultate over the subaortic area, ascending aorta, pulmonary artery, and the left craniodorsal cardiac base. Following examination of the left precordium, the right precordium should be examined.

X No murmur detected

□ Yes, murmur detected

If a murmur has been detected it is important that a follow up examination be completed. These follow ups generally include echocardiograms, Doppler studies or even cardiac catheterizations and are best determined by your veterinarian.

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Title:Auscultation DocumentationNumber:BR-002Version:2.0

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