

The Basset Hound

Recommended Health Screenings for the Breed

The Basset Hound's unmistakable long ears, low stature, and long back are part of the breed's charm — and they call for a little extra health awareness. The OFA, together with the Basset Hound Club of America, recommends the following core screenings through the Canine Health Information Center (CHIC) program. This reference is provided to help you understand what responsible Basset Hound health testing looks like.

Recommended Health Screenings

Eye Examination

An exam by a board-certified veterinary ophthalmologist (ACVO / CAER) to screen for inherited eye conditions, including glaucoma, to which the breed can be prone.

Thrombopathia (DNA)

A DNA test for Basset Hound Thrombopathia, an inherited platelet disorder that affects normal blood clotting.

Elbow Dysplasia

Evaluation of the elbow joints, relevant to the breed's distinctive short-legged (chondrodystrophic) build.

Spine & Back Health

Because Bassets are a long-backed breed, attention to spinal health and intervertebral disc disease (IVDD) — supported by healthy weight management — is important throughout life.

Ear Care

While not a formal screening, the breed's long, low-set ears benefit from routine cleaning and monitoring to prevent infection — a key part of everyday Basset health.

This document is provided for general educational reference and reflects the OFA/CHIC breed screening recommendations established with the Basset Hound Club of America. It is not veterinary advice or a diagnosis. A CHIC number reflects that required tests were completed and results made public — not that every result was normal. Always consult your veterinarian, and verify any breeder's testing at ofa.org.