# Health and Genetics Committee

*Approved: May 2026 | Version 1.0*

The purpose of the Health and Genetics Committee is to promote the genetic and physical health and well-being of the Lancashire Heeler

The Committee shall develop a multi-year plan to prioritize implementation of the various activities included within its Scope of Responsibilities, considering the needs of the breed, the desires of the membership, and the availability of fiscal and human resources for implementation.

## SCOPE OF RESPONSIBILITIES

### Monitoring the Breed's Health

- Monitor data in the OFA's Canine Health Information Center (CHIC) and other available sources, such as the European review of the breed's health to identify the leading health concerns for the Lancashire Heeler and those that may pose significant health threats to breeding programs.
- Develop, maintain, promote and periodically update a confidential health survey that identifies the health of the Lancashire Heeler in the United States.

## Testing Recommendations

- Based oa information gathered on health conditions affecting the breed, recommend genetic testing and breeding precautions necessary to maintain the health and welfare of the Lancashire Heeler.
- Liaise with the OFA's Canine Health Information Center (CHIC) to update, as appropriate, the requirements for obtaining a CHIC number.

## Education and Awareness

- Provide educational material for inclusion in the club newsletter and on the website that pertains to the health and welfare of the Lancashire Heeler, including original articles written by club members and submitted to the Health and Genetics Committee and reprints of articles published in other publications where permission from the author is received.
- Promote the importance of health testing to breeders.
- Develop an appropriate, member-supported program to publicize the importance of health testing to prospective puppy owners.

## Health Clinics

- Coordinate health clinics at National Specialty shows, offering testing at below market prices.
- Provide information to owners and breeders regarding how to obtain health testing in their local area.

## Research

- Based on the health concerns identified for the breed, prioritize research goals.
- Regularly review new lay/scientific abstracts from the Canine Health Foundation and other publications for applicability to the Lancashire Heeler.

- Actively pursue research endeavors that would benefit the Lancashire Heeler, for example by soliciting proposals through the AKC's Canine Health Foundation.
- Recommend proposals for research funding to the Board.
- If funding is approved, work through the Canine Health Foundation to oversee administration of and performance against the grant.
- Provide regular reports to the membership on research progress.
- Identify projects that would provide useful information to owners on the health and welfare of the Lancashire Heeler.

## Fund Raising

- Work with the Ways and Means Committee to raise funds for research through fund raising endeavors at National Specialties or other fund raising projects.
- Consider forming a 501(c)(3) Foundation, able to receive tax deductible donations to support health research and clinics.

## PRIORITIES FOR 2026 AND 2027

The Committee's priorities for 2026 are to provide updated recommendations for health testing and, once approved, incorporate those recommendations into the requirements in the OFA's CHIC database. In addition, the Committee will recommend a Breeder Recognition program to encourage health testing.

Priorities for 2027 are to conduct a health survey either independently or through the OFA, to consider conducting the C-BARQ temperament and behavioral survey developed by the University of Pennsylvania, and to produce educational articles for inclusion in Club publications.