

Description and Duties of the Health Committee

As stated in the constitution/Bylaws, this committee shall always be subject to the final authority of the GPCA Board of Directors. A majority of the Board can appoint new members to the committee, appoint the chairman, and approve members wishing to join this committee.

Our Purpose is to provide reliable current information on health related issues that may affect German Pinschers.

Our Goals are to encourage participation in health testing and support research to improve the health of future generations of German Pinschers.

The Duties of the committee follow:

1. Educate the membership on the importance of health testing. Bring to the attention of breeders the importance of all health testing prior to breeding any litter. These tests would include but not be limited to hips(PennHip/OFA), eyes (CERF), vWD (DNA), Thyroid, Heart, and Brucellosis. The chairman of the committee will keep the Board informed of these activities.
2. Place articles in the Pinscher Press about health related issues, and articles stressing the importance of health testing. Encourage the membership to use the open registries for all of their dogs test results. We will strive to provide an example by posting results of our own dogs for the future generations of our breed to access.
3. Inform the membership of potential health threats to German Pinschers or epidemics as they become known.
4. Work toward organizing a database of health test results for German Pinschers on the GPCA web site.
5. Monitor, update, and maintain health information on the Health Pages of the GPCA web site.
6. Encourage all GPCA members to participate in discussions and comment on those discussions on the official GPCA Discussion site
7. Members will maintain confidentiality of health information gained solely through committee work.
8. The committee will avoid any action that will result in the harm of any member, the German Pinscher breed, or the GPCA.

Duties of the Committee Chair; In addition of the above duties:

1. The chairperson is to ensure that all members of the committee are kept informed and included in discussions, projects, and votes.

2. The committee chairman will present quarterly reports and an annual report to the Board prior to the Annual Board Meeting as required by the GPCA Constitution/Bylaws.

Committee Guidelines for conducting business

1. There should be no more than seven and no less than three members on this committee at any time. Consideration should be given to persons with past breeding experience

2. Committee members are required to have access to and use the Health Committee Forum (GPCA Health Committee Yahoo Group) for committee communications, discussions, and voting. Votes will be carried by a majority of the votes received, and will be open for five days. A quorum is always present, unless written notice is given of an absence for more than five days by a committee member.

3. Committee members are expected to participate in discussions, projects, and voting. In order to participate, committee members are required to access the forum every five days to remain current.

4. The committee retains the right to petition the board for removal of a member from the committee, after a discussion, and a passing vote authorizing such a petition. The decision of the board is final.

5. As a requirement of Health Committee membership, all members will present a good example to the membership by testing all of their breeding stock following the current G.P.C.A. required tests for CHIC status and listing publicly (OFA) the results on all of their testing. Compliance is mandatory for health committee members.

6. Intellectual Property; All written materials- articles, forms, disclaimers, brochures, photos, artwork, but not limited to these, prepared, authored, received, during the work of this committee by committee members is done with the understanding that the work is done by GPCA representatives, and that all material prepared and received is Intellectual Property of the GPCA. Exceptions by individual contract between member and GPCA may be allowed.

By the authority of the GPCA Constitution/Bylaws, any committee member who does not follow these guidelines may be terminated by a majority vote of the full membership of the Board upon written notice to the appointee; and the Board may appoint a successor for the person whose service has been terminated.

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