

# CHIC NUMBERS

## ***So what is a CHIC number and why do I need one?***

As many other parent clubs have done, the Pyrenean Shepherd Club of America (PSCA) partnered with the Canine Health Information Center (CHIC - [www.caninehealthinfo.org](http://www.caninehealthinfo.org)) to determine the requirements for Pyrenean Shepherds to receive a CHIC number. These are tests which the PSCA recommended should be done on all dogs before they are bred. *(Recommended screenings for CHIC numbers vary from breed to breed depending on the health issues affecting that breed.)*

For the Pyrenean Shepherd the following tests are required in order to get a CHIC number:

- **Hips certified clear of hip dysplasia** (OFA, OVC or PennHip)
- **Patellas certified clear** (OFA)
- **Eyes certified clear** (CERF, OFA [CAER])
- **CHIC DNA**
- **Cardiac** (OFA) *[not mandatory <sup>1</sup>]*

To get a number the tests must be done and the results submitted to the pertinent health registry<sup>2</sup>. Results submitted may be either normal or abnormal. The concept behind this is to encourage breeders and owners to not only test their dogs, but also to encourage them to share that information, whether normal or abnormal, which in turn benefits the entire breed by having the information made public. *(Unfortunately owners often do not send in abnormal results.)*

## ***So what does having a CHIC number really mean?***

- Having a CHIC number DOES NOT mean that the dog is certified clear in all those areas.
- Having a CHIC number DOES mean that the dog's owner is willing to do all the necessary tests, and to make those results public whether normal or abnormal.

To see what the tests results are go to: [www.offa.org](http://www.offa.org) *(Click on "Advanced Search". Under breed choose "Pyrenean Shepherd", and click on "Begin Search". This will pull up all PS results.)*

If possible, every one that owns a Pyr Shep should consider getting these tests done, since the more health information we have available, the better for the entire breed and for us all.

**Also, be sure to thank owners who get CHIC numbers, especially those with abnormal results. They are truly showing their commitment to the health of the breed at large, and to creating an open climate for discussing health issues.**

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<sup>1</sup> Cardiac testing is recommended, but not required to get a CHIC number on a Pyrenean Shepherd.

<sup>2</sup> Results sent to OFA and CERF automatically get counted towards a CHIC number. OVA and PennHip results must be submitted to OFA by the owner. Once the dog has done all the tests they will automatically receive a CHIC certificate.