



GPCA Health Committee



Rules for the Great Pyrenees OFA Champion for Health Award **Description of the Champion for Health Award (from the OFA)**

This award refers to the Orthopedic Foundation for Animals (OFA) sponsored annual "Champion for Health" award. The award will consist of an engraved silver medallion awarded to the owner, and a \$100 donation to the AKC Canine Health Foundation (AKC/CHF) in the name of the honored dog. It is intended that the award be announced and presented at the club's annual awards banquet." In addition, photographs of dogs winning this award will be displayed on a "Champions for Health" webpage on the OFA and GPCA website.

RULES:

I) The GPCA Health Committee shall be responsible for the administration of the OFA Champion for Health Award program.

II) Eligibility Requirements

1) All Great Pyrenees applicants must have a CHIC number. A Great Pyrenees that does not have a CHIC number on the date(s) of significant accomplishments is eligible if they have a CHIC number on the date that the application is submitted for consideration.

2) The individual submitting the application must be a GPCA member in good standing and be either a breeder or owner of the candidate dog. All breeders and owners of the dog must be in good standing with the AKC, but not necessarily a GPCA member.

3) Owner(s) of a dog that have significant achievements may submit a completed application as described below to the GPCA Health Committee. These achievements may have occurred in the Breed or Performance ring, as Producers, or by GPCA originated Award such as HOF for Production, Show or Obedience, Draft Dog, and Versatility. Other acceptable achievements include but are not limited to temperament tests, and documented outstanding therapy dogs and livestock guardians. Achievements prior to the year of application are permitted. Dogs previously nominated but not selected may be re-nominated in another year.

4) The calendar year for award eligibility shall be January 1st to December 31st. All applications must be received no later than January 15th of the award year.

III) Completed applications and selection process for submission to OFA.

1) A completed application for submission to the OFA shall include a description of the Great Pyrenees's accomplishments, a CHIC number, a record of all health certifications, and a photograph suitable for publication.

2) The Health Committee shall nominate one (1) to three (3) dogs each year for the annual award. After review of the name(s) of the owner(s) of the candidate dog's by the GPCA President and Secretary to verify there are no pending disciplinary actions and that the owner(s) are members in good standing, the nominee's shall be forwarded by the GPCA AKC /CHIC liaison to the OFA for final selection .

IV) Rules regarding ineligibility

- 1) Any Great Pyrenees without a CHIC number is ineligible. If a dog obtains a CHIC number in a later year after earning a significant accomplishment, this dog shall then become eligible for consideration.
- 2) A Great Pyrenees shall only be eligible for one "Champion for Health" award. Dog's that are nominated, but not selected may be re-nominated in another year.
- 3) Application(s) received without a signature will not be considered.

V) Awards from the OFA

Awards made by the OFA such as the medallion, donation to the AKC-CHF, OFA webpage features, etc. are at the discretion of the OFA and may be changed without notice. The OFA reserves the right to withhold the award based upon a lack of suitable nominees.

VI) Information regarding the Orthopedic Foundation for Animals CHIC program

The CHIC database is a centralized pool of health information on individual animals from multiple sources. CHIC is maintained to assist breeders in making more informed breeding choices and for scientists in conducting research. The requirements for a CHIC number have been tailored to meet the needs for Great Pyrenees based on inherited diseases that are of the greatest concern and for which some screening test is available. Information on the requirements is available from the OFA or the GPCA Health Committee. These unique requirements have been established through input from the Great Pyrenees Club of America prior to the breed's entry into the CHIC program. Each dog must be permanently identified in order to have test results included in CHIC. Permanent identification may be in the form of microchip or tattoo.

A CHIC number is issued when test results are entered into the database satisfying each breed specific requirement, and when the owner of the dog has opted to release the results into the public domain. The CHIC number itself does not imply normal test results, only that all the required breed specific tests were performed and the results made publicly available.

As health priorities within Great Pyrenees change, or as new screening tests become available, the specific requirements for Great Pyrenees can be modified to reflect the current environment. If the breed specific requirements are modified, existing CHIC numbers are not revoked since the CHIC number is issued to a dog that completed all required tests at a given point in time.

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