



FACT SHEET

Topic:	PROGRESSIVE RETINAL ATROPHY (PRA)
Variety of Poodle:	Toy, Miniature, & Standard.
Description:	Gradual deterioration of the retina of the eye, leading to blindness.
Symptoms:	First symptom may appear as night blindness and gradually progress to vision problems in the daytime and then total blindness.
Cause:	<p>Genetic. The <i>prcd</i> gene is the cause of most, but not all, cases of PRA in Poodles. There appear to be at least two different genetic forms of PRA in Poodles, even though the clinical signs of PRA in all diseased dogs are very similar. One form cannot be distinguished from another form based on a clinical exam. This is significant—a dog that is Normal/Clear for <i>prcd</i>-PRA could still be at risk for having or carrying another form of PRA.</p> <p>The exact frequency of <i>prcd</i>-PRA compared to other types of PRA in the Poodle is not known. We do know that <i>prcd</i>-PRA is frequent, is the predominant form, and is found in Toy and Miniature Poodles only. Currently, the cause of PRA in Standard Poodles is unknown, and PRA in Standard Poodles is not common.</p>
Mode of Inheritance:	Simple autosomal recessive (both sire & dam must be carriers, or Affected, to produce affected offspring).
Method of Diagnosis:	<p>Genetic Testing. <i>prcd</i>-PRA is diagnosed by genetic DNA testing offered by OptiGen for Toy and Miniatures Poodles. This test is not valid for Standard Poodles. More information can be found at http://www.optigen.com.</p> <p>Eye Exams. While annual eye exams by veterinary ophthalmologists are recommended for all breeds, this is especially important for Toy and Miniature Poodles, since there is more than one form of PRA known to affect those varieties.</p>
Age for Diagnosis:	Toy and Miniature Poodles can be genetically tested as very young puppies. This is a cheek swab DNA test. Onset of <i>prcd</i> -PRA occurs late; i.e., 5-6+ years.

The eye exam by a veterinary ophthalmologist can be done beginning at 8 weeks old. Currently, Standard Poodles can only be positively diagnosed after onset by a CERF examination. There is not a specific time frame for the onset of PRA in Standard Poodles.

Recommendations:

Every dog used in a breeding program should have its eyes examined annually by a veterinary ophthalmologist, or prior to being bred. Each Toy and Miniature should also have the OptiGen rating for *prcd*-PRA, which is a definitive genetic test. Desirable breeding for Toys and Miniatures must include at least one *prcd*-PRA Normal/Clear parent. All other breedings are at risk of producing affected pups with an extremely high probability of developing *prcd*-PRA during their lifetime.

Genetic Registry:

The Poodle Club of America Foundation (PCAF) has an agreement with the Orthopedic Foundation for Animals (OFA) to have OFA establish a database of results of the OptiGen test. Breeders who wish to list the Normal/Clear or Carrier results of their tests must submit the report they receive from OptiGen to OFA and pay a \$15 fee to OFA. Their information will be entered into OFA's DNA-based genetic database and they will receive an OFA certificate. All information in the database is publicly available. There is no charge to enter an Affected test result into the database.

Information Sources:

OptiGen: http://www.optigen.com/opt9_test_pra_poodle.html

CERF (Canine Eye Registry Foundation): <http://www.vmdb.org/cerf.html>

OFA (Orthopedic Foundation for Animals): <http://www.offa.org/cerfdata.html>

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