



# COLLIE HEALTH



Today's Collie is strong, healthy  
— and ready to take on the world!



**T**he science of canine health has surged forward by leaps and bounds in recent years, to the great benefit of dogs and the families who love them.

Veterinary research and the dedication of breeders have had a very positive impact on the Collie. The general health of the Collie has consistently improved over the last 50 years because of the diligence of the Collie Club of America and the group's strong dedication to Collie Health. We started our own health foundation in 1986, **The Collie Health Foundation** ([www.colliehealth.org](http://www.colliehealth.org)—click here to learn more), which continues to be one of the models on which other foundations are based, including the American Kennel Club's own Canine Health Foundation. Over the years, the Collie Health Foundation has awarded many grants for research into health issues that affect the Collie and contributes generously to the AKC's foundation to benefit all dogs.



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From puppyhood to maturity, today's Collie enjoys a healthy, active life



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which are **Ivermectin**, the active ingredient in some heartworm preventatives, and the over-the-counter human drug **Immodium**. (For more information about drug sensitivity in Collies, visit the website of **Washington State University's College of Veterinary Medicine**: [www.vetmed.wsu.edu/depts-VCPL](http://www.vetmed.wsu.edu/depts-VCPL). You can get your dog tested for drug sensitivity as well as keep up with the latest research.) Longevity in Collies is fairly consistent. About 12 years is the usual life span of this breed.

### Allergies (In Humans)

There really is no such thing as a completely hypoallergenic dog, since substances such as pollens and molds can stick to a dog and be transmitted to the person who touches it. A serious allergy in a family member, therefore, requires the management of a physician before any animal is introduced into the household.

### Eyes

Collie puppies are examined between 7 - 8 weeks of age by a veterinary ophthalmologist, and each dog sold has a certificate from the ophthalmologist that describes the individual's vision. Before you buy a Collie, therefore, you will know the exact status of that individual's eyes. Test breeding has practically eliminated PRA from the gene pool. What remains is a series of conditions known collectively as Collie Eye Anomaly (CEA). Much of the genetics of this is of interest to breeders for breeding stock, but does not really impact a companion dog at all. In brief, mild CEA involves the pigment in the Choroidal area of the eye and does not affect vision, nor does it worsen as the dog ages.

### Skin

Diligence on the part of breeders and advances in the formulation of dog foods and the treatment of parasites, particularly topical flea/tick treatments, have made many skin problems a thing of the past and greatly reduced others to the point of rarity.

### General Health

Hip and elbow dysplasia, heart problems, and epilepsy which are common in many large breeds, are not common problems in Collies, though they do occur occasionally. Cancers do not occur in Collies at a rate that is different from any other dog. Collies and other white-footed herding breeds are sensitive to certain drugs, among

Enzymes found primarily in saliva and also in dander trigger animal allergies. The most important factor in determining the allergenic nature of a breed is the fit of the lips followed by the type of coat. Because the Collie has tight-fitting lips and a double coat which holds the dander next to the skin, the breed is only moderately allergenic. Family traffic management which includes the restriction of the dog from parts of the house such as bedrooms, coupled with bathing and grooming protocols done outside the house minimize the impact of allergens on the family.



PART 3: The Journey to Collie Ownership! We're almost home!!

