

General Clinical Examination Prior to a Dog Show – VDH LV Hessen Supplementary Sheet: Chiari Malformation / Syringomyelia

In consultation with the Veterinary Authority of the City of Kassel, Dr Purkl As of: July 2026

Under Section 10 No. 2 of the German Animal Welfare Dog Ordinance (Tierschutz-Hundeverordnung – TierSchHuV), it is prohibited to exhibit dogs in which, due to hereditary factors,

- **body parts or organs required for species-appropriate use are absent, unsuitable or altered, resulting in pain, suffering or harm,**
- behavioural disorders associated with suffering occur,
- any species-appropriate contact with other dogs causes pain or avoidable suffering or harm to the dog itself or another dog.

As part of the veterinary clinical examination, a professional and objective assessment of clinical findings is to be carried out. The veterinary findings serve as a basis for determining whether there are indications that the examined dog exhibits extreme breeding traits within the meaning of Section 10 No. 2 of the German Animal Welfare Dog Ordinance. The AGT Guidelines are also used as an aid to interpretation.

NAME / ADDRESS OF THE VETERINARY PRACTICE AND OF THE EXAMINING VETERINARIAN

Veterinary Practice

Examining Veterinarian

KEEPER / OWNER, NAME AND ADDRESS

Keeper / Owner

Date of Clinical Examination

Breed

Date of Birth / Age

Name of Dog

☐ Male ☐ Female

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Dog's Microchip Number

Additional Information

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Dog's Microchip Number

EXAMINATION FOR INDICATIONS OF CHIARI MALFORMATION / SYRINGOMYELIA

Does the history reveal any suspicious symptoms: Pain / abnormal sensations in the form of uncontrollable itching with episodic, one-sided scratching of the neck/shoulder region (often without skin contact, frequently triggered by stress); unexplained "fly-catching"; intermittent / difficult-to-localise pain, particularly in the cervical spine, later also episodic attacks of pain; sensitivity to touch in the head, neck, shoulder and cranial chest regions; sleep problems / disturbed sleep

☐ Yes ☐ No If yes, what findings?

Neurological examination

Menace response, tested repeatedly (each eye)

☐ Consistently elicitable ☐ Not or not consistently elicitable

Postural reaction / proprioceptive positioning response (tested on each limb / digit)

☐ Elicitable ☐ Not elicitable or delayed response

Is **nystagmus** (spontaneous eye movements) or **strabismus** (squinting / abnormal eye position) detectable?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Are the **pupils of both eyes equal in size**?

☐ Yes ☐ No, anisocoria is present (unequal pupil size)

Is there **pain** (vocalisation, muscle twitching or muscle tension) on **palpation of the head** or the **cervical / thoracic / lumbar spine**?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Is **hyperaesthesia** (marked response to mild stimuli / touch) present when the shoulder and lateral neck region are touched?

☐ Yes ☐ No

OVERALL RESULT

Based on the history and/or examinations, there are:

☐ No indications of Chiari malformation / syringomyelia

☐ Indications of Chiari malformation / syringomyelia

If there are **indications of Chiari malformation / syringomyelia** in at least one of the above items, including in conjunction with the history, a **further specialist examination** by a neurologist* is required, with the aim of reaching a final assessment as to the presence of Chiari malformation / syringomyelia, including the decision as to whether an MRI examination is required.

* Specialist in Small Animal Medicine with an additional qualification in Neurology (German qualification)
Diplomate in Veterinary Neurology (ECVN) (European qualification) A directory is available at: tier-neurologen.de

Specialists in various European countries can be searched for at ebvs.eu. Select "Specialists" or "Find a Specialist"; under "Specialist Title", select "EBVS European Specialist in Veterinary Neurology" and start the search.

Date	Signature of Examining Veterinarian	Practice stamp
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