

Hip & Elbow Dysplasia

Hip and elbow dysplasia are developmental, multifactorial, genetically influenced conditions that are characterized by ill-fitting or loosely fitting joints with resultant secondary degenerative joint disease (arthrosis). The word dysplasia is derived from the Greek “dys” meaning abnormal and “plassein” meaning to form. As hip and elbow dysplasia are developmental diseases, they only manifest radiologically after a few months and are thus not present at birth. There is no doubt about the fact that the tendency to develop hip or elbow dysplasia is inherited but environmental factors like excessive protein intake and excessive strenuous exercise at a very young age play a role in the degree of dysplasia that is eventually manifested.

The result of hip and elbow dysplasia are varying degrees of lameness which may present from about 6 months of age or older and some dogs only show clinical signs in later life. When buying a pup you should minimize the chances of the pup developing hip and/or elbow dysplasia by ensuring that the dam and sire have been tested for hip and elbow dysplasia by means of radiographic (x-ray) screening. Dogs older than 12 months (18 months for some larger breeds) can be certified by a veterinary radiologist as to the degree of hip dysplasia (graded A-E) and elbow dysplasia (graded 0-3) that is present. These gradings are done according to the FCI and International Elbow Working Group guidelines.

For more information or to download forms, please visit: <https://vetimaging specialists.com/>

