

Signed Stephen Clarke F/MRCVS Signed Elizabeth Baines F/MRCVS

You've received an elbow dysplasia grade for your dog – what next?

- If you haven't already done so, we always recommend discussing the result with your vet.
- Visit the [CHS website](#) to understand what the different elbow grades mean. You can also read the breed specific statistics. These show the results of all UK Kennel Club registered pedigree breeds that have been screened since 1999, as well as the most common crossbreeds and unrecognised breeds.
- We recommend only breeding from dogs that have an elbow grade of 0.

Understanding your results

The elbow grade on your certificate is determined by the higher of the two individual grades given for each elbow, based on the presence of primary lesions and the size and extent of the secondary lesions. Grades for each elbow are not added together as they are for the two hips in the Hip Dysplasia Scheme. Grading goes from 0 'normal' to 3 'severe osteoarthritis or primary lesion with osteoarthritis'. Ideally dogs with grade 0 elbows should be chosen and certainly dogs with grade 2 or 3 elbows should not be used for breeding.

Publication of your results

If your dog is registered with the UK Kennel Club, the results will also be published on [The Kennel Club website](#).

What is elbow dysplasia?

Elbow dysplasia is a common inherited orthopaedic problem in dogs where the elbow doesn't develop properly. Elbow dysplasia includes a number of specific abnormalities or problems that affect different areas of the elbow joint. These cause problems by affecting the growth of the cartilage which forms the surface of the joint or the structures around it. Even a small change in the shape of one part of the joint can have major consequences for the joint function, leading to lameness (unable to walk correctly), osteoarthritis (a common form of arthritis), pain, and serious effects on the health, behaviour, and welfare of the dog.

Other schemes offered by CHS

Hip Dysplasia Scheme

The Scheme uses X-rays to screen for abnormalities (changes) in the hip joints. The radiographs are scored by an expert panel of veterinary surgeons otherwise known as Scrutineers. The scores can then be compared to the breed median, allowing breeders to make informed breeding decisions.

The Scheme is open to all dogs and breeds including crossbreeds, unrecognised breeds, and dogs not registered with The Kennel Club.

Hereditary Eye Disease Scheme

The Eye Scheme is a clinical eye examination carried out by expert veterinary ophthalmologists (eye specialist) to identify inherited and non-inherited eye conditions in dogs. The results of the examination should be used by breeders to make informed breeding decisions.

The Eye Scheme also offers Litter Screening for congenital hereditary conditions such as collie eye anomaly and multifocal retinal dysplasia when the puppies are 5 to 12 weeks old.

The Scheme is open to all dogs and breeds including crossbreeds and non-Kennel Club registered dogs. Download our leaflet on hereditary eye disease in dogs for more information on the conditions and the scheme.

