

# Canine Dysplasia is a Genetic Decease . . . . . an inherited decease.

Before purchasing a puppy consider the sire and dame who will be producing the litter. Ask the breeder for copies of the OFA and GDC certificates for the litters sire, dame, grandparents and great-grandparents. Breeders spend a lot of money to get clearances on their dogs and should be proud and happy to present them upon request.

To verify OFA and GDC numbers (Hip or Elbow) you can search at:

GDC: [http://canis.tamu.edu/gdc/search\\_dog2.asp](http://canis.tamu.edu/gdc/search_dog2.asp)

OFA: <http://www.offa.org>

Other countries including Canada have their own HD/ED registries and scoring systems.

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OFA Radiographic Evaluation of Pelvic Phenotype With Respect to Canine Hip Dysplasia (\*\*Starred categories indicate those which DO receive OFA certification)

## **(GRADES GIVEN BY OFA)**

### **EXCELLENT HIP JOINT CONFORMATION\*\*\***

superior hip joint conformation as compared with other individuals of the same breed and age.

### **GOOD HIP JOINT CONFORMATION \*\*\***

well formed hip joint conformation as compared with other individuals of the same breed and age.

### **FAIR HIP JOINT CONFORMATION \*\*\***

minor irregularities of hip joint conformation as compared with other individuals of the same breed and age.

### **BORDERLINE HIP JOINT CONFORMATION**

marginal hip joint conformation of indeterminate status with respect to hip dysplasia at this time.

### **MILD HIP DYSPLASIA**

radiographic evidence of minor dysplastic change of the hip joints.

### **MODERATE HIP DYSPLASIA**

well defined radiographic evidence of dysplastic changes of the hip joints.

### **SEVERE HIP DYSPLASIA**

radiographic evidence of marked dysplastic changes of the hip joints.

## **Reading OFA Numbers:**

If a dog is said to be OFA Certified it will have a Certification number issued by OFA.

It will look like this, **BMD-2731G34F**, but not exactly because each breed and each dog has differences.

- The first three letters denotes the breed, in this case BMD.
- The next four letters in this example 2731 is the dog's individual number it could be as low as 1 if it is the first dog of that breed to be OFA Certified, or as high as they have given numbers out.
- Next is the letter "G" in this example. This denotes the grade they have given the hips. In this example "G" stands for Good. It could be any of these letters:  
E = Excellent Hip Joint Conformation  
G = Good Hip Joint Conformation  
F = Fair Hip Joint Conformation.  
These three are the only passing grades.
- The next two letters in the example denotes the dog's age, in months at time of evaluation. In this case 34 months. It will be 24 up to however old someone wants to submit x-rays. OFA will not issue a Cert. until at least 24 months of age.

- The letter at the end denotes the sex of the dog, in this case "F" is female. Obviously it will only be M for Male, or F for female. OFA has recently added another letter at the end after the sex.
- Now you will see "T" or a PI "T" denotes that the dog was not permanently identified, another words no microchip or tattoo or DNA number. PI stands for Permanently Identified. Having permanent identification assures that the dog brought in for x-rays is in fact the dog that that the owner identifies it to be on the form not a "stand -in."

There are (3) passing grades, Excellent, Fair, and Good. These all receive a number and certificate. There are (4) Failing grades - Borderline, Mild, Moderate, & Severe Hip Dysplasia. The Borderline grade is usually given with a note from OFA asking you to re-x-ray the dog and re-submit those x-rays in "X" number of months. This is because (as outlined above) borderline does not receive a certificate and it is because the dog is deemed to have: "marginal hip joint conformation of INDETERMINATE status with respect to hip dysplasia at this time". So.....the dog is not passed, but failed because the hip conformation is unable to be determined. When the owners resubmit new x-rays they will either be given a Pass or Fail rating. Note: If a dog fails OFA or gets a low passing Grade the owners can resubmit x-rays over & over to try and get the dog to pass. The X-rays are graded "as compared with other individuals of the same breed and age." However if the x-rays are sent in on a dog at 24 months and the dog is rated Good and the owner resubmits at 36 months and the dog is rated Fair the lower rating will be recorded and listed for the dog.

**GDC certification numbers are basically the same as OFA numbers. Example: GDC15387H18EN**

The differences being:

GDC = Genetic Disease Control  
 15387 = Individual GDC dog number  
 H = Hips  
 18 = Age in months  
 EN = Grade (Excellent Normal)

GDC rated dogs with passing scores as:

EN = Excellent Normal  
 GN = Good Normal  
 AN = Acceptable Normal

***GDC also certified dogs from 12 months of age and over.***

**Elbows are rated on a pass or fail basis.**

OFA ELBOW numbers look like this:

BMD - EL527  
 BMD= Breed  
 EL = Elbow  
 527 = Dogs individual number.

GDC elbow numbers look like this:

GDC15387E18N

GDC= Genetic Disease Control  
 15387= Dog's individual number  
 E= Elbow  
 18 = Dog's age in months  
 N= Normal