

CHEDS (Canine Hip and Elbow Dysplasia Scheme)

OVERVIEW

In January 2000 the AVA and ANKC combined forces in a joint scheme to reduce hip and elbow disease in registered pure bred dogs. From 1st May 2016 ANKC Ltd has assumed sole responsibility for the administration of the scheme. These notes are to be effective from 1st May 2016 and may be modified from time to time.. Please see the Dogs Australia website for the most recent version.

The important features of the scheme are:

- Administration of the scheme is via the Dogs Australia Office.
- Application forms for hip and/or elbow scoring are available from www.dogsaustralia.org.au/members
- Hip and elbow assessment will be by members of the Radiology Chapter of the Australian and New Zealand College of Veterinary Scientists (ANZCVS).
- Radiographs determined by the reader to be of poor quality must be repeated at the veterinary surgeon's expense.
- Results will be returned to the owner.
- A sympathetic appeal system is in place.
- There will be regular quality control assessments.
- Results will be directly recorded by the reader on the Dogs Australia ORCHID (Officially Registered Canine Health Information Database). From the resulting statistics, there will be breed specific averages available, updated regularly.

In the future, Dogs Australia plans to develop an open register, published through ORCHID, where, subject to the agreement of individual owners, hip and elbow scores of those owners' dogs will be publicly available.

Information for Owners

The scheme is open to all dogs at least one year of age, with no upper age limit. The owner of the dog should;

- Arrange for appropriate radiographs to be taken at any veterinary surgery, ensuring the dog's identity is confirmed, either by microchip or recognised tattoo.
- General anaesthesia must be employed.
- Complete the Dogs Australia CHEDS form (available from www.dogsaustralia.org.au/members).
- Pay the veterinarian the respective fees, including CHEDS fee of \$100.00 for hips and elbows, \$80 for hips alone or \$25 for elbows alone.
- The veterinarian and owner will choose from the list of authorised readers on the Dogs Australia website.
- Results will be returned to the owner.

Note: Once a hip and/or elbow score has been issued for a dog, the radiographs may not be re-submitted for scoring under CHEDS other than via the Dogs Australia CHEDS Appeal Scheme.