

You've received a hip dysplasia score for your dog – what next?

- If you haven't already done so, we always recommend discussing the result with your vet.
- You should then compare the hip score with the **breed median**.
- We create breed specific statistics which include the breed median for every UK Kennel Club registered breed of dog that goes through the Hip Dysplasia Scheme, as well as the most common crossbreeds and unrecognised breeds that go through the Scheme.
- The breed median score is calculated from all the scores recorded for that breed over the previous 5 years. It represents the 'middle' score for all dogs' in that breed, meaning that half of the dogs through the Scheme will have scored lower than the median, and half will have scored higher than the median.
- We recommend only breeding from dogs with hip scores under the breed median.

Understanding your results

The hip score on your certificate is made up of the total number of points given for different features in the hip joint, it is representative of the severity of the condition. The lower the score the better. The minimum score for each hip is 0 and the maximum is 53, giving a range for the total score of 0 to 106.

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 hip dysplasia?

Hip dysplasia is a common inherited orthopaedic problem where abnormalities occur in the hip joints. These abnormalities include changes to the shape of the hip, ball, and socket and the development of osteoarthritis (a common form of arthritis).

Changes to the hip joint will begin at a young age as the puppy starts to become more active and will get worse over time. These changes can lead to excessive wear and tear of the joint, causing one or both hip joints to become defective. At this stage the hip joint(s) may be painful and can have serious effects on the health, behaviour, and welfare of the dog.

The severity of hip dysplasia can vary from a poorly shaped hip joint with osteoarthritis (a common form of arthritis) to a very deformed hip joint with advanced and very painful osteoarthritis.

Other schemes offered by CHS

Elbow Dysplasia Scheme

The Scheme uses X-rays to screen for abnormalities caused by elbow dysplasia in the elbow joints. The X-rays are graded by an expert panel of veterinary surgeons otherwise known as Scrutineers. The grades can then be used by 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.

