Hip dysplasia - what is this disease?

Abnormal development of hip – not present at birth!

- Very common orthopaedic disease of dogs
- Polygenic multifactorial in origin which is why it is difficult to eradicate hip dysplasia by selective breeding
- Heritability 0.2 to 0.6
Hip dysplasia - what is this disease?

Hip dysplasia results in:

- Increased hip laxity leading to subluxation (loose hips)
- Later develops arthritis
Hip dysplasia (HD)

Normal hips

Dysplastic hips

Severly HD
Hip dysplasia - clinical signs

- May be radiologically abnormal but show no clinical signs
- Gait abnormalities
- Weakness in the hind quarters
- Arthritis may be crippling in old age
Hip dysplasia – diagnosis

- Clinical examination by your vet
- Radiographs (x-rays)
  - These have to be accurately positioned
  - Anaesthesia or heavy sedation is thus required.
  - Usually take extended and flexed hip views
Hip dysplasia

Extended view

Flexed view
Hip dysplasia

Subluxation changes – loose hips

Normal hip

Loose hip
Hip dysplasia

Degenerative changes – arthritis

Normal hip

Arthritic hip
Hip dysplasia – breeding

Dogs should be certified free of hip dysplasia before breeding with them

- Take dog to your vet (don’t forget registration papers)
- Your dog needs to be positively identified with a microchip or tattoo number
- You will have to sign a declaration form
- The vet will send the radiographs (x-rays) to a veterinary radiologist (Raad van Beheer in Amsterdam for NL)
- He/she will then issue a hip dysplasia certificate with the dog’s hip grading
Hip dysplasia – treatment

- Discuss with your vet
- Mild cases get medical management
- Severe cases require surgery which may be very expensive
Hip dysplasia - conclusion

- Buy puppies from hip dysplasia free parents and grandparents
- Ensure you only breed with dogs free of hip dysplasia
- Have radiographs (x-rays) taken before breeding