



## HIP DYSPLASIA CONTROL PROGRAM

1. The Alaskan Malamute Club, Victoria, Inc. (referred to as the Club or AMCV) will only accept hip X-ray results where the X-rays have been graded under the AVA (Australian Veterinary Association) Hip Dysplasia (HD) Scheme or by the PennHIP method by approved readers.
2. Dogs must be at least 12 months of age, and be **identified in accordance with this program before being X-rayed** for Hip Dysplasia. (see item 6), or at least 6 months of age for PennHIP evaluation.
3. The program is open to all pedigreed Alaskan Malamutes, whether their owners are members of the AMCV or not, and under the same conditions, and upon payment of the prescribed fee.
4. The AMCV has designated a maximum score of 7 on either hip as being acceptable for breeding, i.e. a maximum score from 0 to 7, or above the median by the PennHIP method:
5. (a) Dogs which have had their hips graded overseas or by the PennHIP method will be accepted by AMCV only if the X-ray results are submitted to the Club.  
(b) Dogs which have been X-rayed prior to the commencement of this program may be accepted under this program if application is made to the AMCV and the results are acceptable to the VCA's HDC.  
(c) If there should be any question about the acceptability or otherwise of any HD result, the VCA HDC will make the final decision.
6. (a) **AT OR BEFORE THE TIME OF X-RAYS BEING TAKEN, DOGS MUST BE POSITIVELY IDENTIFIED BY EITHER TATTOO OR MICROCHIP**, and if microchipped the number should be recorded on the X-ray. If by tattoo, owners should apply to the AMCV HDO (Hip Dysplasia Officer) for allocation of a tattoo number which will be tattooed high on the left inner thigh of the dog, and this number will be included on the HD X-ray application form. **Only dogs which have been correctly identified at the time of X-ray** will be accepted by the Club, and will be included in the VCA suffix scheme.  
(b) The allocated Tattoo Number will consist of three prefix letters for each Member and three numerals indicating the number of each individual dog with that prefix, e.g. AMC004.
7. The AMCV will, if requested by an owner, apply to the VCA for the suffix "[A]" to be added to the registered name of any Alaskan Malamute owned by them if the requirements of this policy are fulfilled and the dog passes the standard set.
8. The AMCV will actively encourage owners to have every Alaskan Malamute X-rayed and graded for HD, and the results submitted to the Club, before breeding from it.
9. The AMCV will actively encourage owners to breed for better hips. i.e. dogs with a high pass score should be bred to dogs with low pass scores.
10. The AMCV will strongly discourage the breeding together of 2 dogs with high pass scores. Failed dogs should not be bred from, i.e. higher than seven on either hip.
11. For advertising or publication of a dog in any AMCV literature the club must publish the hip status by stating either (a) Pass, (b) No hip score provided or (c) Dog too young.
12. A Health Officer shall be elected by the Members, and will be responsible for the implementation and management of the AMCV Hip Dysplasia Control program.
13. The Club will actively support any breeder who participates in the control program, yet, from parents both passed for breeding, still produces a puppy that scores higher than 7 on either hip (i.e. fails the hip X-ray). The Club may, via the HDO, assist by providing information about Hip Dysplasia, writing letters, and acting as a liaison between the owner of the dog, the breeder, and the VCA or other controlling interstate body, if the need arises.
14. The Club will actively support any person who owns an Alaskan Malamute who fails a hip X-ray, if the owner fails to obtain satisfaction from the breeder. The Club may, via the Health Officer, assist by writing letters, and acting as a liaison between the owner, the breeder, and the VCA or other controlling interstate body.
15. All hip passes will be published when recorded, and a list of passes will be made available to AMCV Members.
16. An annual report on the program will be prepared and forwarded to the VCA.
17. This program will come into effect on the first day of October, 1992. As from that date, all Alaskan Malamutes must comply with the requirements of this program before X-ray results will be accepted, and all dogs which had been previously accepted under the old AMCV HD Scheme will be included in the VCA suffix application.
18. For a litter to be eligible for advertising on the puppy register:
  - (a) Both parents of the litter must have been hip X-rayed and passed for breeding, and hip scores for both parents must be submitted with the application to the puppy registrar.
  - (b) The litter must comply with all other health testing in compliance with the AMCV Health Policy and Puppy Register guidelines.
  - (c) The breeder must be a current member of the AMCV and have been a member for at least the past 6 months.
  - (d) Advertisements for litters will not be accepted unless advertised through the puppy register.

### THE REASONS FOR A HIP DYSPLASIA SCHEME

Hip Dysplasia is a problem of medium and large breed dogs which may produce hind limb lameness. Because of the poor correlation between the severity of the clinical and radiological signs, radiographic examination of the hips is the standard method of assessment of a dog's hip dysplasia status.

The OFA figures in 1986 showed that of the 4500 Alaskan Malamutes examined, 70% had either excellent or good hips. There had only been 25 dogs submitted to the BVA scheme up to June 1988 and these had an average score of 17 with a range of 2 - 66.

The current situation regarding the hereditary nature of hip dysplasia is that it has a polygenic mode of inheritance which contributes 20 - 50% of the factors involved in initiating the problem. Dr. Willis's work with the GSDL/BVA Hip Dysplasia Scheme suggests that there is considerable benefit in running schemes providing club members are willing to co-operate.

This means that everyone should participate and submit radiographs of all dogs examined. It is just as important to have all the radiographs of dogs with poor quality hips as it is those with good quality hips if the scheme is to be of benefit to the breed as a whole.

The assessment of the hips will be made using a scoring scheme. The scoring system was revised in 2000 with a score of 0 to 7 on both hips being in the pass group and a score of 8 or greater on either hip indicating failure.

Because of the poor correlation of the clinical and radiographic signs, some owners of dogs that move well are going to be disappointed when their dog's hip radiograph is graded as a fail. Unfortunately some dividing line has to be drawn if I am to give advice on those dogs whose radiographic hip dysplasia status is appropriate for breeding in the light of current knowledge. There should be no variation in the way the hips are scored over a period of time but it is certainly possible that the pass/fail line could vary in light of overall standard of hips sent for assessment.

Owners of dogs that fall into the fail category by one or two points on one hip might still consider using that dog for breeding if it is an ideal example of the breed in all other aspects. After all, there is little point in breeding from a dog with excellent hips that has poor construction or uncertain temperament. However, if the choice is between dogs of even construction and temperament, then it would be sensible to use the dog with the best hips.

If members have problems in understanding the interpretation of the hip radiographs, I would be pleased to try and explain their reports.

### NEW AVA HIP DYSPLASIA SCHEME

Application forms for the new scheme are now available from the National Office and State Offices.

Care should be taken to ensure that the details requested on the form are completed accurately.

It should be noted that the radiographic examination must be undertaken with the aid of a general anaesthetic. This is the technique taught and required in all Australian veterinary schools and as well as assisting accurate positioning, it will ensure the most consistent repetitive results for the scoring system.

Any members with queries about the scheme should consult the AMCV Health Officer.



CANINE HIP & ELBOW DYSPLASIA SCHEME REPORT FORM

Please use BLOCK LETTERS

ANKC Registered Name: .....

ANKC Registration Number: ..... Tattoo/Microchip Number: .....

Date of birth: ..... Sex: M / F Date Radiograph taken: .....

Name of owner: ..... Address: .....

.....

Sire	PGS	
	PGD	
Dam	MGS	
	MGD	

I hereby declare that:

- (a) the particulars above are correct and relate to the dog submitted for radiographic examination.
- (b) The dog has not previously been submitted for scoring by the AVA Panel or any individual reader.
- (c) I give permission for the results of the radiograph to be used at a future date for the purpose of statistical research which will be published and for use by the ANKC on the internet  Yes  No

NOTE: THE MINIMUM AGE FOR ASSESSMENT IS 12 MONTHS.

Owner's signature: ..... Date: .....

Veterinary Surgeon submitting (A) Hip radiograph of anaesthetised dog  (B) Elbow radiograph

Identification sighted (please tick appropriate box(es)): Tattoo Number  Microchip read  Pedigree registration papers

Name: ..... Clinic: .....

Address: ..... Phone: .....

Signature of Veterinary Surgeon: ..... Date: .....

Advice to Veterinary Surgeon:

Hip Radiograph: One view of the dog's pelvis is to be taken under general anaesthesia. A high quality radiograph is required and any incorrectly exposed or poorly positioned films will not be read but returned for a repeat X-ray.

VIEW: EXTENDED VENTRO-DORSAL PELVIS.

The radiograph should cover an area from the iliac crest to the stifle joint. The femora should be parallel and the stifles rotated inwards so that the patellae lie in the centre of the trochleae of the femora. Care should be taken to ensure that the pelvis is square.

LABELLING:

The radiograph should be labelled with (a) either the dog's tattoo or microchip number, (b) the date, (c) left and right.

The radiograph, cheque made payable to "AVA Ltd" and completed application form should be sent to:

AVA HIP DYSPLASIA SCHEME  
PO BOX 4257  
KINGSTON ACT 2604

1. **DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY;** No liability will be accepted for any circumstances of canine hip and / or elbow dysplasia not mentioned in this report which manifests after the date of this report.
2. **DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY TO THIRD PARTIES:** This report is made solely for the use and benefit of the owner named herein and no liability or responsibility whatsoever is accepted for any third party who may rely upon this report wholly or in part. Any third party acting or relying on this report wholly or in part does so at their own risk.



Alaskan Malamute Club, Victoria (Inc.)  
Incorporations Reg. No. A0016353X

## CANINE HIP & ELBOW DYSPLASIA SCHEME REPORT FORM

Please print clearly & use BLOCK LETTERS

Dog's ANKC Registered Name: .....

Dog's ANKC Registration Number: ..... Tattoo/Microchip Number: .....

Date of birth: ..... Sex: ..... Date Radiograph taken: .....

Name of owner: ..... Address: .....

Sire	PGS	
	PGD	
Dam	MGS	
	MGD	

### RADIOGRAPHIC REPORT

FILM QUALITY: Satisfactory Underexposed Overexposed Extraneous marks

POSITIONING: Satisfactory Tilted laterally left / right Femora not sufficiently extended Femora not evenly extended

HIP JOINT	RIGHT	LEFT	Comment
Norberg Angle			
Subluxation			
Cranial acetabular edge			
Dorsal acetabular edge			
Cranial effective acetabular rim			
Acetabular fossa			
Caudal acetabular edge			
Femoral head / neck exostosis			
Femoral head recontouring			
<b>TOTAL</b>			TOTAL SCORE (Maximum score 106):
			Breed Average Score:

**ELBOW GRADE:** RIGHT 0 1 2 3 ( mm) LEFT 0 1 2 3 ( mm)

Date submitted for examination: ..... Reference No.: .....

Date examined: ..... Date returned: .....

Radiologist Number: ..... AVA HD Secretary: .....

### TAX INVOICE

AVA Ltd ABN 63 008 522 852

Name: ..... Position: .....

Company: ..... Phone: ..... Fax: .....

Address: .....

Hips @ \$66.00 per dog (GST inclusive) \$ .....

Elbows @ 18.00 per dog (GST inclusive) \$ .....

Total amount payable (GST inclusive): \$ .....

**Please make cheque payable to AVA Ltd**

and send with all copies to:

AVA Hip Dysplasia Scheme, PO Box 4257, Kingston ACT 2604