

THE FCI GRADING SYSTEM

KUSA and the SA Veterinary Association, after numerous investigations and discussions changed its Hip Dysplasia grading scheme to the more internationally recognized FCI (Federation Cynologique Internationale) system at the start of 2007. The system also applies to non-KUSA affiliated breeds. There are multiple implications for breeders taking dogs for hip dysplasia radiographs (X-rays) for certification. The changes, where applicable will also be for elbow dysplasia certification.

1. The FCI grading is from A-E with 2 subdivisions for each (see separate grading table).
2. Large breeds must be done at 18 months. All other dogs, including the Boerboel, are done from 12 months of age. Large breeds include Bullmastiff, other mastiff types, Great Dane, Newfoundland, Pyrenean Mountain Dog and St Bernard. Rottweilers in SA are also done at 18 months.
3. All examined dogs must be identified by means of a microchip or tattoo number. No exceptions will be allowed.
4. Elbow dysplasia radiographs can be made at the same time. If not made together with hip radiographs, point 3 still applies. All breeds can be done at 12 months.
5. A form must be signed by the owner stating that the dog is the one as described on the certificate and that the results may be utilised as seen fit by the diagnostic body/KUSA. The veterinarian has to verify the microchip/tattoo and also sign the form. A single application form for hip and elbow dysplasia is available on the KUSA website at www.kusa.co.za under HD/ED documents. A legible copy of the dog's official pedigree certificate must be attached to the application.
6. Please note that the radiographs remain the property of the veterinary practice that made them and have to be kept by that practice for 3 years (as per the SA Veterinary Council guidelines).
7. Ensure that your veterinarian knows the requirements of the new scheme. Positioning must be optimal and to achieve this general anaesthesia or sedation is required.
8. A single certificate is issued stating the grade of hip or elbow dysplasia where applicable.
9. Dogs may not be submitted more than once for hip or elbow dysplasia grading. Should you wish to appeal the grading, the process is on this website or the KUSA website at www.kusa.co.za under HD/ED documents.