

HIP DYSPLASIA IN PYRENEAN SHEPHERDS

Is it really important to check for hip dysplasia in Pyr Sheps?

One of the most common problems in Pyrenean Shepherds here in North America is hip dysplasia. Based on the data from OFA **21.2%** of Pyrenean Shepherds submitted to them are dysplastic (4/25/2010*). This number is artificially lower than the actual number of dysplastic dogs, since owners are not required to submit x-rays to OFA. (*Often if it is evident to the veterinarian when the x-rays are taken that the dog is dysplastic, the owners will choose not to send them into OFA for evaluation.*) Pyrenean Shepherds being diagnosed with hip dysplasia include both imported dogs, and dogs bred in North America.

Data about Hip Dysplasia in Pyrenean Shepherds in North America (2010)

OFA	Number X-rayed	% Excellent	% Good	% Fair	% Abnormal	% Normal
PYRENEAN SHEPHERD	85	.01%	59%	19%	21.2 %	76.5 %
OTHER BREEDS FOR COMPARISON						
POLISH LOWLAND SHEEPDOG	423				16.1 %	82.3 %
GREAT PYRENEES	5548				9.2 %	89.8 %
AUSTRALIAN SHEPHERD	28102				5.8 %	93.5 %

The OFA information is based only on submitted x-rays, meaning that the actual incidence of hip dysplasia is much higher.

The Pyrenean Shepherd Club of America has determined that the following registries are appropriate for hip evaluation and certification (with no preference given):

- OFA** <http://www.offa.org>
- PennHip** <http://research.vet.upenn.edu/Default.aspx?alias=research.vet.upenn.edu/pennhip>
- OVC** <http://www.ovc.uoguelph.ca/hip-elbow/about/>

The results from all of these organizations may be found on the OFA website. (*Owners must submit results to OFA in order for PennHip and OVC results to be listed there*). It is important that all dogs have their hips evaluated through these organizations, rather than just having a veterinarian give their own evaluation to the owner.

What can I do?

This issue is of concern in the breed! In order to address this health issue, breeders and owners must work together by having open dialogue and by accurate information sharing. If you are a breeder, please have all of your breeding stock evaluated. If you are a pet owner consider having your dog evaluated, even if they are not going to be used for breeding. (*The more data we have the better.*) If you are currently looking for a breeder **be sure to verify the results listed on kennel websites with OFA or the other organizations.** By working together we can move forward into the future.

* This information can be retrieved from the OFA website: <http://www.offa.org/stats.html#breed>