

Guarantee Criteria for hips and Procedures to follow:

Updated: January 1st, 2009

Your Schraderhaus K9 German Shepherd Puppy has arrived through the most stringent criteria being met in our breeding practices. Our choice for combinations of our breeding males and females reflects what our kennel is known for producing. At the top of our list of criteria is that our breeding animals meet the requirement for having as clean a genetic lineage as possible for structural health, temperament and hip and elbow soundness.

This includes genetic background for having, and additionally for producing, clean hips and elbows. When it is time to have your puppy taken for their hip x-rays, bear in mind that, when reviewing radiographic diagnosis for your puppy with your Veterinarian, it is impossible to eliminate genes that are present in their genetic makeup. They are forever included in your puppy's heritage from those many previous generations and are a part of their genetic history. These genes are part of the genetic makeup from which the original German Shepherd Dog has materialized and been transformed over the years. No matter how diligent we are in combining the most sound male and female dogs, there is always a chance that good hips will not be the outcome based on genes they receive from their past genetic heritage. Thus, the reason for this guarantee...

New Puppy owners are not required to have the dog's hips x-rayed, except as pertains to dogs for breeding, guarantee and/or pup replacement.

With regard to having your dog's hip x-rays taken for OFA review, the following is of the utmost importance. Our current contract now states that your dog must also be evaluated at between **12-15 months of age**. The age limit has been changed from the original period of 24 months as new findings have become known pertaining to canine hips and the x-ray outcome for dogs that train and work. True genetic hip dysplasia will be evident at an early age. However, if the dog is overworked at too early an age, this can and has produced environmentally induced dysplasia due to the severity of the actual work requested of the dog while forming bone material. In addition, overzealous or little educated but well-intentioned trainers begin starting the dog into strenuous training at too early an age. In an effort to determine whether a dog is indeed affected with *genetic* hip dysplasia, the 12-15 month requirement governs the age at which preliminary films must be taken, effective as of the date of this document. This is an OFA Preliminary certification for your dog at 12-15 months of age, because OFA will not certify a dog for the record books until it is 24 mos of age. However, we feel this 12-15 month time line is necessary for the purposes of this contract. It is also within the requirements for dogs produced outside the US, such as those in the European countries where dogs are bred and raised with the sole purpose of putting them into work as soon as possible. In Germany, Czech Republic and many other countries hip and elbow x-rays are taken and certified after 12 months of age. At the 12-month age, OFA will send you an official OFA Prelim Evaluation. For many of you this will be all you need. For buyers purchasing their dog to be used for breeding/working, you must have them retaken after 24 months of age in order to be certified in the OFA official records for the dog, **OR you may have them evaluated by the SV in Germany after 12 mos of age.** **Contact me in advance for instructions** to have hips & elbows **graded by the SV** rather than OFA.

The following must be complied with when having your hip x-rays taken:

#1. No Schraderhaus pup is to be bred prior to 2 years of age. Our belief is very strong in that they are still too young and growing at this age, and can also be severely injured due to their inexperience in mating. In female dogs, breeding before hip films are taken and have received a rating can result in a negative hip rating if hips are x-rayed after having produced a litter.

#2. For Female puppies that are coming 12 months of age to have their hips x-rayed, it is crucial to be very familiar with the cycles of their heat. If they are due to come into heat around age 12-15 months, **I request that you call me to let me know of this, so as to delay the taking of the x-rays for 6-8 weeks following the end of their cycles. **Under no circumstances should a female be x-rayed when she is in heat.** Hip films must **not be taken 6-8 weeks either before or after the impending cycle as well.** When a female comes into heat, the fluctuation of hormone levels within her body causes her ligaments, tendons, and joints to loosen and become lax. This is the normal preparation for the body should the bitch become pregnant. It is not a good time to do x-rays as it can and has changed the outcome of the rating for the dog's hips. Owners who take films while female is in heat, or whose female comes into heat immediately following taking the films, and which result in a negative hip rating, **will be required to have hip films retaken 8 weeks from the end of that current heat cycle.****

#3. Hip films may be taken with dog not sedated. When taking hip films that will be used for hip evaluation, this can be beneficial to allow the dog to tighten his tendons and ligaments in order to maintain his actual proper bone and joint position. However, dog must be cooperative and your vet highly experienced in how to position the dog on the table; adept at keeping the dog in the proper position. Your Vet must verify proper alignment of the dogs' position in the films before sending on to OFA to be evaluated. Do not allow them to send in films that are substandard in position quality. Remember; this is **your dog** and you are paying your vet for this service, so **demand that good films of your dog's hips are sent in to OFA for evaluation.**

#4. A good quality balanced diet is very important to the proper growth and development of your puppy. Feeding Poor quality dog foods laden with preservatives and grains, as well as zealous but misguided supplementation of vitamins or other growth producing additives, cause serious problems to bone growth and overall longevity of your growing German Shepherd Dog. **Be knowledgeable and very particular as to what is being ingested by your growing dogs.** View my website for Schraderhaus K9 Puppy diet and feeding information, as well as many articles about the many benefits of feeding a raw diet.

NOTE: We require that all Schraderhaus dogs be maintained daily on Vitamin C. Hip Dysplasia is now believed to **not only be genetic**; other contributing factors are **environmental & feed induced**. See our diet for your dogs' requirements.

#5. The films MUST be taken by a Veterinarian who is familiar with taking and submitting films to OFA or SV for Certification of hips. Although it is your right to use the vet of your own choosing, my guarantee requires that, should OFA/SV reject the hips as being mildly dysplastic, the dog's films must be forwarded to myself AND/OR a Veterinarian of my own choosing for a full evaluation of the films and the findings thereof. **These films are your films and they DO NOT belong to your veterinarian so please advise your veterinarian of your contractual requirement ahead of time.**

#5a. Due to this requirement, at the time films are submitted to OFA you must include with the films a written request that OFA returns your films to Schraderhaus K9 for future comparison or possible evaluation by my veterinarian. ****

A digital disk copy of the dog's submitted hip films, sent to us by your veterinarian, will also be acceptable.

Evaluation of the films by my veterinarian is for the purpose of obtaining his opinion as to whether he feels the dog in fact does have hip dysplasia. Occasionally a less than desired rating can be due to other factors, particularly in these slow maturing dogs where the dog may be lacking full muscle tone/skeletal development; as well as mal-positioning of the dog on the table or even the taking of poor quality films. **Position is crucial when taking and sending in films to OFA/SV. Radiologists can only review and certify what is before them, based on what your veterinarian has sent them to be evaluated for that particular dog.** If the dog is positioned poorly, this will reflect in the outcome of your dog's rating for hips. Therefore, I recommend strongly that you use a Veterinarian who, at the very least has been trained **and accredited** in the correct x-ray procedures and techniques for setting up the dog on the table, and who also has many years of knowledge and experience in taking films for submission of Hip Quality evaluation. Being accredited also includes having taken the training for knowing and making certain that the x-ray diagnostic equipment is set at the proper guidelines for producing the best and most readable films as well as not over exposing the dog to unnecessary radiation during the taking of the x-rays. If you chose not to follow the above procedures and the dog's hip rating comes back as unfavorable, a second set of films will be required to be taken on the dog. These additional films will be taken and submitted at the owners' expense and taken by a vet of Seller's choosing. Therefore, it is important to make sure you are using a vet who is knowledgeable and skilled in the field of taking hip x-rays.

#5b. Owners who chose to submit films to the SV **must either request a duplicate film or digital disk copy of the films** at time dog is xrayed **(to be sent to Schraderhaus K9)** prior to sending films to the SV. The SV will not return the films as does OFA.

#5c. In the event there is a question as to the results of the 12-15 month hip films of the dog, it is agreed that you let the dog grow and mature to the minimum age of 2 years, with films retaken at the age of 24-26 months. **OFA Clients must request from OFA in writing that Original films be returned to Schraderhaus K9 after being received by OFA for evaluation** where we will retain them for later comparison and as a guideline for the progress of the hips in the dog as it becomes fully mature. **(See # 5 above).** Your Veterinarian should be made well aware of the importance of the criteria discussed above.

To inquire about locating Veterinarians who are accredited in Washington State, contact:

Charles R. Root, D.V.M., MS, Dipl. ACVR

Animal Medical Imaging

11415 Northeast 128th St. Suite 10

Kirkland, WA. 98034 **1-800-888-0197**

Dr. Root previously worked to accredit veterinarians and hospitals in the Seattle and surrounding areas in Washington State. He recently opened a new state of the art facility in Kirkland and, if you wish, you may take your dog there to have the films done. Dr. Root is Board Certified, previously traveling from clinic to clinic reviewing a variety of orthopedic radiographs, giving his opinion and advice on these films. Dr Root was OFA Consult for his expertise in reviewing and evaluating films for the Orthopedic Foundation for Animals, with films often sent to him for his opinion, evaluation and diagnostic findings. He is highly respected in his field of expertise.

If you take your dog for hip radiographs at the office of Dr. Root, or a Veterinarian of his recommendation who is accredited in your area, you will be insured of the best possible films of your dog's hips being submitted for certification to OFA. If he is unable to take films of your dog's hips, you may send me a written statement of his recommended Veterinarian in your area before having films taken.

***In any case, I request you call me to discuss what is needed, before taking your dog in for hip films / Certification.**

For Out of State Clients searching for an Accredited Veterinarian, contact

Orthopedic Foundation for Animals @ 1-800-442-0418

Buyer Signature _____ Seller Signature _____

Jean Schrader
Schraderhaus K9

