

Changes to the NZVA canine elbow Dysplasia Scoring System – 2015

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Changes have been made to the submission/reporting form of the NZVA ED Scheme to reflect the recommendations of the International Elbow Working Group (IEWG).

The IEWG is an organisation that was set up to develop and facilitate policies that will lead to the reduction in the incidence of canine elbow dysplasia worldwide. When a dog is scored for ED in Europe, it is customary to report the presence or absence of any primary manifestation of elbow dysplasia (Fragmented Coronoid Process (FCP), Un-united Anconeal Process (UAP) and Osteochondritis Dessicans (OCD)) and/or any significant elbow incongruity (IC). These are recorded separately to the degree of osteoarthritis.

According to the IEWG recommendations, a confirmed primary lesion scores a 3 and a strong suspicion of a lesion is a 2. The NZVA system has not had a separate area on the form to record the primary lesion. Instead, the presence of a primary lesion was recorded by the scorer in the comments section and an overall score of 3 would result. So in effect the scoring system is the same. However, due to the lack of a specific area on the form to indicate the presence or absence of a primary lesion, the NZVA system has been interpreted in Europe as a system that only relies on osteoarthritis. This is a detriment for dogs that are exported to Europe, as they may have to be rescored if the NZVA scheme was used for elbow certification. In order to make the NZVA ED form conform to the IEWG guidelines it has been modified for the latest print-run. When you receive new forms you will note the following format.

Assessment	Right fore	Left fore	(For scrutineer use only)
Primary lesion confirmed	UAP <input type="checkbox"/> FCP <input type="checkbox"/> OC <input type="checkbox"/> IC <input type="checkbox"/> NI <input type="checkbox"/>	UAP <input type="checkbox"/> FCP <input type="checkbox"/> OC <input type="checkbox"/> IC <input type="checkbox"/> NI <input type="checkbox"/>	X indicates score
Primary lesion suspected	UAP <input type="checkbox"/> FCP <input type="checkbox"/> OC <input type="checkbox"/> IC <input type="checkbox"/> NI <input type="checkbox"/>	UAP <input type="checkbox"/> FCP <input type="checkbox"/> OC <input type="checkbox"/> IC <input type="checkbox"/> NI <input type="checkbox"/>	
Arthritis grade	3 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 <input type="checkbox"/> 1A <input type="checkbox"/> 1B <input type="checkbox"/> BL <input type="checkbox"/> clear <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 <input type="checkbox"/> 1A <input type="checkbox"/> 1B <input type="checkbox"/> BL <input type="checkbox"/> clear <input type="checkbox"/>	
Overall grade	3 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 <input type="checkbox"/> 1 <input type="checkbox"/> BL <input type="checkbox"/> clear <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 <input type="checkbox"/> 1 <input type="checkbox"/> BL <input type="checkbox"/> clear <input type="checkbox"/>	
Status	Dysplastic <input type="text"/>	Accredited <input type="text"/>	
Comments	<input type="text"/>		

- Each of the boxes in the top line is to indicate the confirmed presence [X] of a primary lesion. If a primary lesion is not noted the NI (not indicated) box is crossed [X].
- Each of the boxes in the second line is to indicate that a primary lesion is strongly suspected [X].
- If a primary lesion is not suspected the NI (not indicated) box is crossed [X].
- Following the IEWG recommendations, a confirmed primary lesion scores a 3 and a strong suspicion of a lesion is a 2 for that elbow.
- Each of the boxes in the third line is to indicate the degree of osteoarthritis: 3, 2, 1A, 1B, BL (borderline). If no osteoarthritis is noted then the CLEAR box is crossed. A clear is the equivalent of a zero on the old form:

- The OVERALL GRADE for each elbow is the worse of the primary lesion score (3 or 2) or the osteoarthritis score.

In effect there is no change to the way the scorers are scoring elbows, just the way it is recorded.

A dog that would have been zero in each elbow on the old form [not dysplastic, accredited] will now be recorded as: Primary Lesion confirmed NI, Primary Lesion suspected NI, Arthritis Grade CLEAR, Overall Grade CLEAR, in each elbow and get the same outcome [not dysplastic, accredited].