



Orthopedic Foundation for Animals

OFA focuses on genetic diseases of dogs, with a mission to improve the health and well being of companion animals through a reduction in the incidence of genetic disease. They include four specific objectives:

- To collate and disseminate information concerning orthopedic and genetic diseases of animals.
- To advise, encourage and establish control programs to lower the incidence of orthopedic and genetic diseases.
- To encourage and finance research in orthopedic and genetic disease in animals.
- To receive funds and make grants to carry out these objectives.

In addition to hip, elbow and patellar evaluation, OFA has cardiac, thyroid, congenital deafness, shoulder OCD, and several other disease databases. OFA and AKC co-sponsor a DNA repository through CHIC (Canine Health Information Center)

Radiographs submitted to the OFA must follow the American Veterinary Medical Association guidelines for positioning. This view is accepted world wide for detection and assessment of hip joint irregularities and secondary arthritic hip joint changes. To obtain this view, the animal must be placed on its back in dorsal recumbency with the rear limbs extended and parallel to each other. The knees (stifles) are rotated internally and the pelvis is symmetrical. Chemical restraint (anesthesia) to the point of relaxation is required. For elbows, the animal is placed on its side and the respective elbow is placed in an extreme flexed position.

The radiograph film must be permanently identified with the animal's registration number or name, date the radiograph was taken, and the veterinarian's name or hospital name. If this required information is illegible or missing, the OFA cannot accept the film for registration purposes. The owner should complete and sign the OFA application. Permanent identification, such as the animals tattoo number or microchip number is required in order for the OFA to submit results to the AKC. Sire and dam information is also required.

The age criteria for dogs is 24 months (2 years), however a preliminary evaluation can be done as early as 4 months, with the option of results being non-released, depending on the owners preference.

Also provided is patellar luxation evaluation and thyroid testing. The patellar luxation evaluation is performed on an awake animal that hasn't received any chemical restraint. The veterinarian will manipulate the patella and then fill out the required OFA form. This form

is then submitted to OFA for grading and evaluation. The animal must be at least 12 months of age to be eligible for certification, but a preliminary evaluation can still be performed at an earlier age.

For the thyroid testing a veterinarian takes a blood sample from the animal. This sample is then sent to an OFA approved laboratory along with the OFA submission form. The lab will determine the thyroid level and report the results to OFA. Animals that are under 12 months of age are eligible for a preliminary screening but are not eligible for OFA thyroid certification.

At South Willamette Veterinary Clinic digital radiographs are used. This provides clearer and more defined radiographs, with the ability to manipulate the contrast of the image. It also provides the ability to send images over the web, decreasing lag time that occurs when sending direct mail.

The costs involved in OFA evaluation include pre-anesthetic blood screening, anesthesia, IV fluids, radiographs, OFA fees, and mailing (if necessary)

For more information you can visit the OFA website at: www.offa.org

CERF (Canine Eye Registry Foundation) registers dogs free of heritable eye diseases based on an examination by an ACVO (American College of Veterinary Ophthalmologists) member. This database is also useful for researching trends in canine eye diseases. The following clinics in Oregon have ACVO diplomates interested in performing CERF examinations. For more information on CERF visit <http://www.vmdb.org/cerf.html>

Animal Eye Clinic
25 NE Olney
Bend, OR 97701
541-617-7377
Every Other Week, Fri. and Sat.

The Animal Eye Doctor
12720 SW 2nd St.
Beaverton, OR 97005
503-641-7777
Fax: 503-643-3100

Eastgate Veterinary Clinic
33888 SE Peoria Road
Corvallis, OR 97333
541-752-3786
M,T,TH.,F,S

Oregon Veterinary Clinic
444 B Street
Springfield, OR
541-726-1100 *Wed only*

Northwest Veterinary
Specialists
16756 SE 82nd Dr.
Clackamas, OR 97015
503-656-3999

Animal Eye Specialists
Dr. Heather Low, DACVO
1245 SE 3rd Street, C3
Bend, OR 97702
Phone: 541-550-5969
www.bendeyevet.com