

Osteochondritis Dissecans (OCD)

By Sue Brailey

The final health test that is recommended at present is shoulders known as OCD.

The BVA do not recognise the test and no other breed of dog in the UK are scored for OCD. This means the x-rays need to be sent abroad for scoring. Most European countries score them under the same system which is either 0 – Clear or A – Affected. OCD of the shoulder occurs when the cartilage is damaged and causes a flap to form which causes pain and inflammation in a young dog usually around the age of 5-10 months. The dog will show signs of lameness and pain on flexion of the shoulder. Bearing this in mind an owner would know if their dog was affected by OCD of shoulder. Therefore usually only dogs who have never presented with lameness are scored for OCD. However, I have known of dogs which have never been lame returning a score of A – Affected. At present here in the UK some breeders score shoulders and some do not. The club recommends it is done but it is not, as yet, mandatory. If you wish to have your dog scored you will first need to obtain a form from the country you will be sending the x-rays to so the vet can fill it in and it can be sent off with the x-rays and the fee, usually around 60 - 80 euros.