

In June 1999 the Federation Cynologique Internationale (FCI) adopted an international certificate for hip and elbow dysplasia which allows for some degree of cross reference between the various grading systems used through out the world. So using this international system as the base it is possible to make some comparisons between the scoring and grading system used in Australia and the UK and those used in Holland, Germany and the USA. These are all based on the changes detected on radiographs taken in standard positions after the dog has reached 12 months of age (24 months in the USA).

This is a brief outline of the international grading system:-

- A No sign of hip dysplasia
- B Nearly normal hip joints
- C Light (slight) hip dysplasia
- D Moderate hip dysplasia
- E Severe hip dysplasia

There are detailed definitions of the radiographic criteria used to allocate to these grades. Further, each of these grades has been subdivided into two which helps with the comparison between national grades. So there is A 1 and A 2, B1 and B2 and so on.

I have included the Dutch system as well because a number of breeders have been asking about this.

The base I have started from is the international classification and related this to The Australian system and then the German and Dutch system,

It is most important that it is understood that all the grading systems are based on the grading of the worst hip only and not a combination of both hips as is done in Australia and the UK so when the Australian score is related to the other systems the score is the worst score for one hip not a combined score for both.

International Dutch grade	Australian score (worst hip)	German grade
A(1) Negatief geheel gaaf	0	Kein Hinweis Fur HD (1)
A(2) Negatief Niet geheet gaaf (2)	1-3	“
B(1 &2) Transitional fur case	3-5	Ubergangsform (Verdchtig HD) (Tc)
C(1&2) Licht positief (3)	5-8	Leicht HD
D(1) Positief	8-11	Mittlere HD

(3 1/2)

D2
Positief

11-15

“

(4)

E1
“

15-35

Schwere HD

E2
Positief

35-53

“

optima forma

(5)

It cannot be emphasised too much that these comparisons given are only approximations to give a guide as to the interpretation of the Dutch and German grading systems. There could be glaring anomalies, for example a dog with a score of 6 in one hip made up of 2 for Noreberg angle and 4 for Subluxation would have to be at least a D1 international grade.

It would be possible but very involved to go through the comparison of the systems in much greater detail but even then it would not be possible to get to the stage of stating categorically that a dog with a German grade Leicht HD would score between 5 and 8.

I would like to thank Dr M Kramer of the Veterinary Faculty at the Justin-Leibig University, Giessen who supplied some of the information I have used.

The grading system used in the USA is even more difficult to correlate directly to the Australian scoring system so what

follows can only be taken as a fairly rough guide. Here again what is quoted is the score of the worst hip only.

Australian score (Worst hip only) Foundation for Animals)	USA grade (Orthopaedic
0 – 3	Excellent
3 – 5	Good
6 - 8	Fair
9- 11	
Borderline	
12- 15	Mild
16 – 35	Moderate
35 – 53	Severe

I hope this goes some way to answering your questions. If not please do not hesitate to get back to me.