

## [Hip Dysplasia](#)

Is a common problem in many breeds and is caused when the ball and socket joint are not properly formed and can cause the dog a lot of pain and difficulty with walking. The Kennel Club and BVA operate a scheme where dogs are x-rayed and scored for the degree of dysplasia of the joint. The lower score the better. Individual scores for the breed are used and a mean is found for each breed. At this time the Finnish Lapphund mean score is **13** and Swedish Lapphund **12**. The Kennel Club recommends breeding from dogs with a lower than the breed average score. HD can be also be bought on by injury, exercise and feeding. For more information follow this link:

[http://www.bva.co.uk/canine\\_health\\_schemes/Hip\\_Scheme.aspx](http://www.bva.co.uk/canine_health_schemes/Hip_Scheme.aspx)

[http://www.bva.co.uk/public/documents/chs\\_hip.pdf](http://www.bva.co.uk/public/documents/chs_hip.pdf)

Or view: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HTwi8TRs6z8&feature=related>

**Hip Score Comparison Chart** – an explanation to hips scores from other countries:

<http://www.anatoliandog.org/hip-chart.htm>

*If you are buying a puppy ask to see the sire and dams hip score certificates*

## Normal healthy hip joint.



## Hip joint with dysplasia.



## Symptoms of dysplasia;

- Reluctance to jump
- “Bunny hop” gait when running
- Crying out in pain when hip moves.
- Limping or short strided steps in rear legs.
- Difficulty climbing stairs.
- Tends to warm up. Usually more severe when dog first gets up.
- Worse after heavy exercise (often next day).
- Symptoms can vary from day to day (cold wet days often worst).
- Rarely crop up or worsen suddenly. Usually gradual worsening.