

New Zealand members participation in the GSDCA HD/ED schemes

As requested by GSDAC, Australia have amended their regulations to come into force from July 1st, 2023.

The following requirements are for NZ Dogs wishing to use the GSDCA HD/ED schemes.

1. The dog has to be a DogsNZ registered animal and must be 12 months or older.
2. All owners are a member(s) of the GSD Advisory Council (New Zealand);
3. The dog has a microchip which has been verified by and is recorded by the GSDAC along with its pedigree, on a database to be established by the GSDAC; (Breed Surveyors and Breed Surveyor Trainees can verify the microchip but will not be able to verify their own dogs. If there is no surveyor or trainee available to you contact the HD Registrar for an alternative.)
4. The microchip number is printed on the official pedigree/registration certificate from Dogs New Zealand (NZKC) and a copy is supplied with the application; (If the microchip number is not already on the pedigree there is a form to send to DogsNZ from which they will add the microchip number to the pedigree.)
5. The Vet signs the declaration that he has read the microchip at time of x-ray and the number is also embedded digitally on the x-rays.

All of these requirements are to be met before requesting an AZ form from the Registrar.

Following your application:

- The HD Registrar will process your application and send you the form which you must give to your vet on the day the x-ray is taken.
- Once all the above has been completed, book your dog in for the x-rays - don't book before you have all the paperwork necessary.
- The form for the vet will be accompanied by instructions for the vet regarding identifying the x-ray by labelling it correctly - make sure your vet reads this!
(In the unlikely event a microchip cannot be found by the vet at the time of x-ray the Veterinarian will need to implant another microchip. The Veterinarian must sign a statement on the HD/ED Control Scheme Application Form that every effort was made to locate the microchip, and it was unsuccessful – and then record the original microchip number (supplied by the Owner) and the “new” microchip number. The Veterinarian MUST also ensure that this “new” microchip number is recorded on all x-rays.)
- Once the x-rays are done, (see requirements for digital x-rays below), the vet will send them on to the reader in Australia.
- Normally, results will be sent to you within two weeks. There will be a pink copy - take a copy of this and ask an executive member “or preferably a surveyor” to sign the copy. Send this to the HD/ED Registrar (Tiz Scheres) If there are any other queries, please don't hesitate to contact Tiz Scheres (email scheres@xtra.co.nz)

Procedure for obtaining GSDCA A & Z Stamp forms.

Purchase of Forms.

Application form to purchase the 'A' 'Z' stamp form is on the website or available from the Secretary or HD Registrar.

Forms are to be paid for at time of application. The H.D. Registrar will issue a receipt when sending the form to the purchaser.

The price covers not just payment for the form but for the reading (of hips and elbows) as well as bank fees and exchange rates. (SEE CURRENT FEES & PRICES IN THE REVIEW).

Forms will not be forwarded until payment is received.

The HD Registrar will complete the form with the State Contract No (for NZ), the name of the dog, the tattoo and/or microchip number. Incorrectly labelled films will not be accepted for reading.

Allow at least 5 working days before making the appointment with your vet.

Correct Labelling of X-Rays

The onus is on the Veterinarian to ensure that the animals comply with the requirements of the GSDCA HD and ED Control Scheme. Failure to meet these requirements will mean that the animal will be required to be re-x rayed. No attached labels will be accepted as means of positive identification.

The x-ray plates/digital x-rays submitted for assessment in the GSDCA HD and ED Control Scheme are to be as follows.

The radiographs SHALL be identified RADIOGRAPHICALLY with all of the following:

- a) the GSDAC tattoo number and/or microchip number
- b) the date
- c) right or left marker
- d) the dog's name
- e) State Contract Number

Incorrectly labelled x-rays and/or x-rays of poor quality (plates or digital) will not be accepted for reading and shall be returned by the reader to the HD/ED Registrar. The HD/ED Registrar shall then contact the Veterinarian/Owner advising them of the situation.

Computer Radiography Generated Images (Digital X-rays)

For computer radiography generated images (digital x-rays) to be accepted by the GSDCA HD and ED Control Scheme, the images must be of a high quality and saved as DICOM Images. (i.e. .dcm extension)

Images saved and forwarded in any other format will not be accepted for reading and shall be returned by the reader to the GSDCA HD and ED Control Scheme Registrar. The HD/ED Registrar shall then contact the Veterinarian/Owner advising them of the situation. If the tattoo number and/or microchip number is not identified radiographically on the x-ray plates the animal must be re-x rayed. No attached labels will be accepted as means of positive identification through the GSDCA HD and ED Dysplasia Control Scheme.

Forwarding of X-Rays to the GSDCA Appointed Readers

Once the animal has been x-rayed the x-rays plates/digital x-rays and all documentation are to be forwarded to the nominated reader. The x-rays are to include the following documentation:

- a) The GSDCA HD and ED Control Scheme Application Form (signed by the Owner and Vet)
- b) A copy of the DogsNZ Registered Pedigree. This is mandatory – not including the copy of the pedigree could result in delays or non-acceptance for reading.
- c) A stamped self-addressed envelope for the return of the provisional result from the GSDCA appointed reader

Receipt of the GSDCA 'A' and 'Z' Stamp Results

A provisional result (pink copy) will be returned in the stamped self-addressed envelope. Shortly thereafter a GSDCA Hip and Elbow Control Scheme Certificate will be forwarded by the HD/ED Registrar. The onus is on the owner of the animal to ensure that all details as shown on the certificate are correct.

If any errors appear on the GSDCA HD and ED Control Scheme Certificate, the original certificate is to be returned to the GSDCA HD and ED Control Scheme Registrar so that a replacement certificate can be issued.

Qualifications for a GSDCA 'A' Stamp

Only animals that score no more than 8 in any one hip, and no score greater than three (3) in any one area, are awarded the GSDCA 'A' stamp.

Animals that score greater than outlined above are deemed to have failed the GSDCA HD Control Scheme and are not recommended for breeding and therefore are not able to be presented to the GSDCA Breed Survey Scheme.

Qualifications for a GSDCA 'Z' Stamp

Only animals that receive a Normal, Near Normal, or Grade One elbow grading, are awarded the GSDCA 'Z' stamp.

Animals that score greater than outlined above are deemed to have failed the GSDCA ED Control Scheme and are not recommended for breeding and therefore are not able to be presented to the GSDCA Breed Survey Scheme.

Rules for Re-Submit of X-Rays

Hip X-rays

X-ray plates of animals that are re-submitted for assessment must adhere to the following:

- a) Resubmit of the second plate to the reader of choice.
- b) If there is a less than 6-point discrepancy then the benefit of doubt shall go to the dog.

If there is a difference of 6 points or greater in the total score, then the matter shall be adjudicated by the HD/ED Registrar sending the two sets of plates to the GSDCA appeal adjudicator (Radiologist) to verify that the two plates are of the same animal. Upon verification to the HD/ED Registrar the animal shall receive the most favourable result.

Elbow X-rays

X-ray plates of animals that are re-submitted for assessment must adhere to the following:

- a) Resubmit of the second plate to the reader of choice.
- b) The animal shall receive the most favourable result.

If the x-ray is being re-submitted due to tilted x-ray and returned to the same reader, then no payment is required when the new form is purchased. Onus is on the owner to provide proof to the Member Club HD/ED Registrar that no payment is required.

If the x-ray is being re-submitted to a different reader or the same reader for a second assessment, then the form must be purchased.

Appeal System

The following procedures to appeal a result in the GSDCA HD and ED Control Scheme.

The vet must post the form to either Dr. Richardson or Dr. Lavelle, without any further payment.

Digital x-rays can be accepted by GSDCA Hip & Elbow Dysplasia Control Scheme on the proviso that they meet the GSDCA requirements, are of a high quality and saved in a DICOM FORMAT (i.e., .dcm extension). Images saved and forwarded IN ANY OTHER FORMAT will not be accepted for reading and will be returned by the reader to Doug West, the GSDCA Hip & Elbow Dysplasia scheme registrar who shall then contact the Veterinarian/Owner advising them of the situation.

- a) Contact the HD/ED Registrar.
- b) Payment forwarded to the HD/ED Registrar for the amount of the required fee.
- c) HD/ED Registrar to request the x-rays to be forwarded to the HD/ED Registrar from the reader concerned.
- d) X-rays forwarded with payment to the Adjudicator Radiologist.
- e) Results returned to the GSDCA HD/ED Registrar
- f) The owner of the animal will be notified of the result by the HD/ED Registrar.
- g) The animal shall receive the most favourable result.