



# Hip Dysplasia

## What is Hip Dysplasia?

Hip dysplasia is a genetic condition that affects the hip joint.

### Causes

Although animals are born with the genes predisposing to hip dysplasia environmental factors such as obesity during the growing phase can contribute to the clinical severity of the condition.

Patients with hip dysplasia develop very lax soft tissues (joint capsule and ligaments) in the early stages of development which then leads to a flattened, deformed ball and a wider angled socket resulting in an unstable hip joint.

### Affected Animals

Hip dysplasia tends to affect large breeds (although any breed can be affected) and clinical signs develop before 18 months of age.

### Clinical Signs

Clinical signs may include limping, stiffness, exercise intolerance and pain. Degree of clinical signs will vary depending on individual animals and severity of disease.

### Diagnosis & Treatment Options

Hip Dysplasia is normally diagnosed by x-rays or specialist imaging such as MRI scans. Several treatment options are available including surgery, these will be discussed by your veterinary surgeon and a plan of treatment created.