

Explanation of elbow rating

Meg has OFA “;excellent” hips, normal eyes, clear heart and LPN1 and LPN2. While her left elbow is not within OFA's parameters to pass, my ortho vet, who has worked with all of my dogs since 1987, and has been practicing since 1984 at the Animal Clinic Northview, requested I bring her back in for another x ray, because both he and my repro vet disagreed with the OFA's rating. This is an excerpt from a letter Dr. David Knox, of the Animal Clinic Northview wrote for me;

“OFA evaluated the left elbow as having DJD, Grade 1 elbow dysplasia. At the time the radiographs were taken, Dr. Brian Greenfield and I noted that there was an abnormal appearance to the left anconeal process, and we believed that it was not an osteophyte indicating DJD. Instead we felt it was an anatomic variation of normal. We advised the owner of what we saw and indicated that OFA might interpret the atypical appearance as DJD. They did in fact.

Subsequently I took further radiographs of both elbows-specifically cranial-caudal projections-to further evaluate the elbows. My opinion at that time-and currently- is that there is not definite evidence of DJD in either elbow joint. I also sent the films to Dr. Fagin, a Diplomate of ACVR (American College of Veterinary Radiology) for his evaluation.”

In conclusion, the phone discussion that ensued between them, and the report sent to Dr. Knox from his colleague, Dr. Fagin, who is a retired reader for OFA, agreed that they were in agreement that what Meggie has is not DJD but an Atypical Elbow.

Dr Fagin statement of findings;

1. Normal appearance of hips (Dr. Knox sent him the AP view which includes the entire body along with the original lateral view)
2. Normal appearance of the right elbow
3. Atypical appearance of the left elbow

In the BB litter's 5 generation pedigree (62 Leonbergers) both Meg and Turok's ancestors all have passing elbows back to 1983. The BB litter will also have 5 generations free of hip dysplasia including 20 ancestors who were rated “Excellent “(A's by international registries are also Excellent) which is almost unheard of in very large breed dogs.