



## Advisory notice

### Hip Gradings

AN 1

2001.12.08

We recommend that all dogs used for breeding purposes be X-rayed prior to mating and that the gradings obtained be recorded against the dog's registration particulars.

We recommend further that you use 0.0 for breeding purposes whenever possible and ask you to note that KUSA currently won't accept any grading other than that i r o both dam and sire when registering a litter.

We recognise the suitability for breeding purposes of dogs given a

Transitional Grading as a consequence of H D X-raying. We consider here gradings such as 1.0., 0.1., or 1.1. only, i.e. no 2., 3., or 4. is acceptable. Further we require that one parent is a 0.0.. If a breeder acts in accordance with this and the previous paragraphs, we are of the opinion that he acted prudently and has taken all the precautions required of him regarding the Hip Dysplasia issue.

We recognise also the right of experienced breeders to enjoy full freedom of choice when it comes to selecting parents of the litters they decide to breed. We would merely emphasise that anyone acting in accordance with the previous paragraph has taken all the precautions reasonably expected of him, whereas incorporating greater latitude introduces a measure of risk.

We further recommend that all dogs be micro-chipped prior to

X-raying and that such dogs be no younger than 12 months at the time of examination. We regard 18 months as being the optimum age and, as far as bitches are concerned, request that you do not have them X-rayed within two months of their season, either before or after.

If at all possible it is preferable that your dog is sent to Onderstepoort for X-raying as they use a strong sedative i s o a general anaesthetic. The use of the latter always carries an element of risk and this is particularly true for the Ridgeback. In addition the staff at Onderstepoort know exactly what is required by Prof. Kirberger to permit evaluation of the plates first time around, thereby preventing the need for repeating the procedure. This in no way detracts from the excellent service provided by vets throughout the country, and in any event they must recommend your use of Onderstepoort if you go that route. All we are suggesting here is that if you have the opportunity to use Onderstepoort directly then you should do so. The evaluations are done there.