

Guidelines for hip and elbow certification:

- 1 Hip dysplasia examination is done from the age of 12 months(including cats), except for large breeds which must only be done from the age of 18 months. Breeds considered as “large breeds” are the Bullmastiff, other mastiff types, Great Dane, Newfoundland, Pyrenean Mountain Dog and St Bernard. Rottweilers are also considered as a large breed. The Boerboel however can be radiographed from the age of 12 months.
- 2 Elbow dysplasia radiographs can be made at the same time but can be done from the age of 12 months in all breeds.
- 3 All examined dogs must be identified by means of a microchip (KUSA requirement) or Tattoo.
- 4 All HD/ED radiographs must at least be identified by tattoo or microchip number, dog’s registered name and date of examination by being recorded in the film emulsion or digital image for permanent and accurate identification. Left and/or right markers must be included.
- 5 Radiographs have to be of a satisfactory quality (correct exposure and processing). The use of a grid is compulsory (except if using DR digital system) in order to ensure that the image quality is acceptable.
- 6 Views/ Positioning:
 - 6.1 For hip dysplasia the standard flexed and extended views are required. For the extended view the whole pelvis and the patellae must be included in the image (for large breeds this usually requires a 30 X 40 cm film). Positioning must be optimal with symmetry of the pelvis (equally sized obturator foramina and ilial wings). Additionally for the extended view the femurs must be parallel to each other, the angle between the femoral necks and femoral shafts must be 135° and the patellae must be located cranially (dorsally) on the femurs. For the flexed views the femoral shafts should form an angle of 45° to the caudal lumbar vertebrae.
To achieve the above, general anaesthesia or deep sedation is required.
 - 6.2 For elbow dysplasia a maximally flexed ML view, collimated to the elbow, is required. Do not use a grid. Both elbows can be included on one film.
- 7 Digital image submission:

A CD with DICOM images can be submitted by post. The CD must be clearly labelled providing the details of the patient(s). The CD must have a manufacturer’s interpretation program included, to allow the radiologist to measure distance, manipulate contrast and brightness as well as magnification. DICOM images may also be uploaded onto a Teleradiology server or similar system. Please note that for digital submissions JPEG images are not acceptable. All the requirements that apply for hard copy films must also be met for digital submissions e.g. submit a declaration form, have optimal positioning and identify the patient’s registration number, registered name , microchip number, clinic name and date of radiographs on the image. No images will be accepted by e-mail.
- 8 Radiographs that do not meet the abovementioned criteria will be returned to the referring veterinarian with an explanation as to the reason for the films being returned. An administrative fee will be charged for the returning of radiographs.
- 9 The signed (owner and veterinarian) application form as well as a copy of the dog’s registration certificate is forwarded by the veterinarian to the scrutineer of choice with the appropriate fee.
- 10 Results are sent back to the veterinarian who forwards them to the owner. The owner must contact the submitting veterinarian and not the scrutineer for results. Copies or amendments to certificates will carry an extra fee.
- 11 Should the owner wish to appeal the result the guidelines can be found on the KUSA website at www.kusa.co.za under HD/ED documents.
- 12 Please note that the radiographs remain the property of the practice that made them and have to be kept by that practice for 3 years. Digital images are also kept by the veterinarian for 3 years.
- 13 Application forms are available on the KUSA (www.kusa.co.za) and SAVA websites.