



Message from the Chief Operating Officer

Welcome to the first edition of OFA E*News. In each issue we'll be featuring news and information regarding the OFA, our website, our services, and canine health in general. Whether you are a veterinarian, dog breeder, or dog owner, we hope you will find the content informative, interesting and valuable. Please feel free to print and distribute, forward via email, or cross post.

Your suggestions for future topics or content are always welcome as well (email to enews@offa.org).



**Eddie Dziuk, Chief Operating Officer,
Orthopedic Foundation for Animals**

Reducing the Impact of Hip Dysplasia

by Rhonda Hovan

Nearly everyone who has seriously bred, trained, or competed with a breed at risk for hip dysplasia is aware of how devastating the news can be that a special dog is affected. The impact may be measured in a number of ways, including dashed hopes and dreams, lost monetary investment in the dog, time lost to a breeding or competition program, wasted effort spent training and preparing the dog, the emotional toll on the family, and of course, concern for the dog. Generally all of these factors contribute to a sense of loss, distress, and heartbreak that is all too familiar to those involved with dogs as a hobby, sport, or profession.

While conscientious breeders and owners attempt to reduce the incidence of hip dysplasia through careful

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CHIC Welcomes New Breeds

Bedlington Terriers, Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retrievers, Parson Russell Terriers, Samoyeds, Scottish Terriers, Shiba Inu, Soft Coated Wheaten Terriers, and Keeshonden.

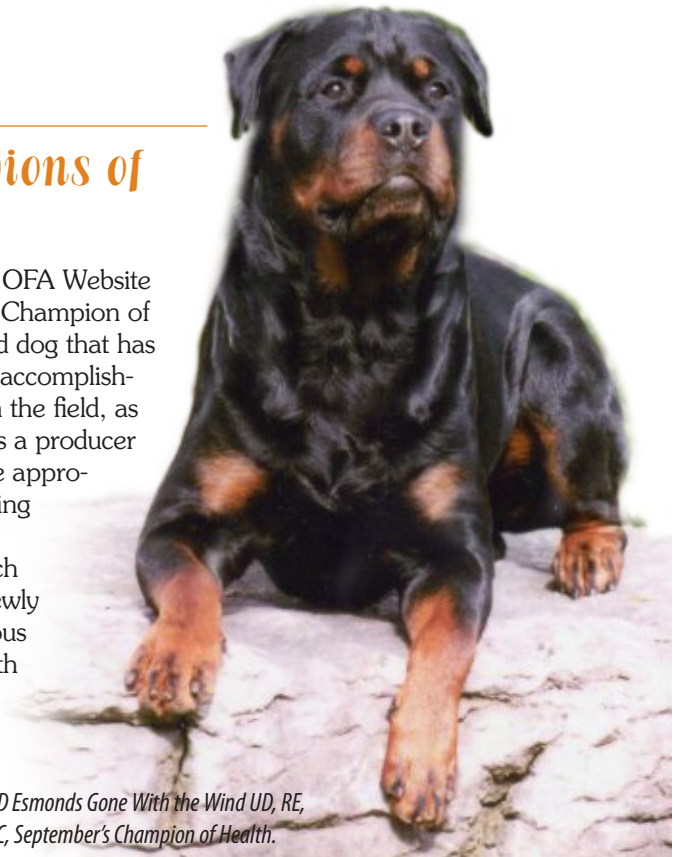
CHIC, the Canine Health Information Center, is a database of consolidated health test results from multiple sources. It is jointly sponsored by the OFA and the AKC Canine Health Foundation. Parent clubs determine a breed's specific requirements. More than 70 parent clubs are currently participating. Dogs meeting all the health screening requirements are issued CHIC numbers. For more information on CHIC, please visit the CHIC website at www.caninehealthinfo.org.

OFA Champions of Health

Each month the OFA Website features a new Champion of Health, a spotlighted dog that has achieved significant accomplishments in the ring, in the field, as a working dog, or as a producer AND that has all the appropriate health screening results for its breed.

Visit the website each month to see the newly featured dog. Previous Champions of Health are archived in a special Gallery.

Am CH/CT, Can CH/OTCH, U-CD Esmonds Gone With the Wind UD, RE, HT, PT, HTD1s, BH, TT, HIC, CGC, September's Champion of Health.



Reducing the Impact of Hip Dysplasia

breeding and management decisions, current tools are imperfect, and the possibility of HD looms as a significant concern in young dogs of many breeds. However, there is another important way to reduce the impact of this disease that is often overlooked.

Early preliminary radiographs, done as young as four months of age, have proven to have a high degree of accuracy when submitted to OFA for evaluation (Corley et al, 1997). A study of over 2300 dogs showed that dogs rated Excellent on preliminary evaluations received normal evaluations as adults 100% of the time, and dogs rated Good on preliminary evaluations received normal evaluations as adults 97.9% of the time. Dogs rated Fair on preliminary evaluations were more likely to become abnormal as adults, but even Fairs remained normal as adults 76.9% of the time.

Statistics are similarly impressive for dogs evaluated by OFA as dysplastic on preliminary radiographs, as 97.4% of dogs receiving a preliminary rating of Moderate were evaluated as having hip dysplasia as adults; and 84.4% of those receiving a preliminary rating of Mild were evaluated as having HD as adults.

This data has tremendous implications for breeders, owners, and trainers, because it demonstrates the reli-

ability of a tool to help guide decisions about the future of young dogs prior to the investment of precious resources. While the diagnosis of hip dysplasia is disappointing at any age, it is certainly easier to recover from plans that must be altered when the dog is four-to-six months of age, rather than when the dog is two years of age. Similarly, owners can feel more confident in developing a dog's full potential when a preliminary radiograph has been evaluated by OFA as having a Good or Excellent rating. Owners of dogs receiving a Fair, Borderline or Mild rating may wish to submit a second preliminary radiograph four-to-six months after the first, because results tend to become more reliable as a dog ages.

There is no substitute for a conscientious breeding program, but hopes and dreams for that up and coming youngster may be more appropriately nurtured when early preliminary radiographs have been used to help guide plans and decisions. And a great deal of distress and heartbreak can be reduced when an owner learns at a very young age that a dog is not a good candidate to meet certain goals.

Reference: Corley EA, Keller GC, Lattimer JC, Ellersieck MR. Reliability of early radiographic evaluations for canine hip dysplasia obtained from the standard ventrodorsal radiographic projection. *J Am Vet Med Assoc.* 1997 Nov 1;211(9):1142-6.

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The OFA Celebrates Its 1,000,000th Hip Evaluation

In addition to celebrating the OFA's 40th anniversary this year, this summer marks another significant milestone as the Rhodesian Ridgeback, Kimani's Motion Picture II (Rooi) became the 1,000,000th dog to have its hips evaluated by the OFA.

Rooi is co-owned by Patricia Hoffman and her breeder Alicia Mohr-Hanna. Rooi's hips received a consensus evaluation of Excellent. Rooi has normal elbow, normal thyroid, and CERF clearances as well, earning her a CHIC (Canine Health Information Center) number.

Rooi's Excellent rating comes as no surprise. Her immediate four generation pedigree boasts 100% OFA Goods and Excellents, and several Kimani Ridgebacks were among the first 50 of the breed to be OFA'd at the time of the OFA's inception in the 1960s.

Absent a genetic marker, radiographic evaluations remain a breeder's primary tool in identifying phenotypically normal hips and elbows for inclusion in their breeding programs. We salute Rooi as our millionth dog and congratulate her breeder Alicia, not only on the success of Kimani Rhodesian Ridgebacks in the ring, but on her contribution and commitment to canine health.

Rooi is pictured above. To the right is Ch. Weecha's Kimani of Mohridge, Kimani's foundation bitch, OFA Ridgeback #44.

