Overview

There are several breeds of dogs in North America that are registered in Europe through the Federation Cynologique International (FCI). Certain of these breeds and their individual breed clubs require "Breeding Certification" prior to breeding which involves performance testing as well as a Coat and Conformation evaluation. Part of the Coat and Conformation assessment includes radiographs of the Coxo-Femoral joints and the shoulder joints. In addition, many owners will elect radiographic appraisal of the elbow joints as well. Dogs that are radiographically considered inferior cannot be bred.

The Appointment

I always allow a good hour for this service. You want to be able to take your time and get it right the first time. Since sedation is required, ideally, you get it done without additional chemical restraint. Plus, there is some paperwork you will have to complete which takes a few minutes.

When the dog is presented, there will be a tattoo in its right ear which is, hopefully, legible. Check this tattoo to insure that you are working on the correct dog. This is a minor issue but just part of avoiding mistakes especially if the owner presents more than one patient.

To make this process go smoothly, digital radiography is imperative as images will need to be submitted to Germany! Images must be in jpeg file format on a CD or even email them to the HD Coordinator.
Positioning

In my experience, the German veterinary radiologist that examines these images is quite strict around positioning and technique. Of course, the hip radiographs are comparable to typical OFA radiographs. Just make sure the wings of the ilium are visible and that the patellae are as parallel as possible. The issues I have had are around the shoulder views and the optional elbow radiographs.

On the shoulder, just pull the opposite shoulder as far caudally as you can; extend the neck dorsally a bit, and pull the targeted shoulder forward slightly.

If the elbow is requested, the radiologist will return the image if the elbow is not at a good 45 degree angle. He wants to see that anconeal process. In addition, you will need to supply a DV of the elbow in an extended position. When you expose this one, just get that humerus straight with the radius/ulna.

Documentation

Well, it’s complicated. The radiograph needs the following information permanently inscribed on it.

- The dog’s full name as on the pedigree
- The dog’s registration number with the letters ZB preceding the numbers (which will be on the dog’s green registration certificate and should mirror the tattoo in the right ear). The format should be ZB# XXXXXX.
- The sex of the patient, spelled out (not just F or M)
- The date of the patient’s birth in the European format, i.e. Day/Month/Year.
- The name of the clinic AND the name of the performing veterinarian.
- The owner’s name
- The date of the radiograph.
Some of this will be easy via your radiograph’s software but we had to add a “text” box to get all the information on the digital image.

After you complete the radiographs, be sure and complete the form the owner has, ostensibly, brought along. The form asks for the clinic’s “stamp” but I just put our address and contact information there.

**Conclusion**

Since I own these dogs, I get more than my share of them in for submission to Germany and we’ve gotten it down fairly well. But, it is time consuming and detailed. And, we still have issues at times. Some owners are experienced at this and know what to do ahead of time while others are at a loss. At times, I just handle the whole project for them from completing the form to submitting the images. This service is not the cheapest thing we do.

**Example Images**

The following are examples of each radiograph for hip evaluation, shoulder evaluation and elbow evaluation. These images reflect the correct positioning and required dog, clinic and owner information.
Hip

Della vom Schlangenfluß
ZB# 223121, Female DD, DOB: 25.5.13; Owner: Martin Coffman; Performing Veterinarian: Martin Coffman DVM, Pine City Vet, Jackson AL USA; Date of Radiograph: 26.11.14

Right Shoulder

Della vom Schlangenfluß
ZB# 223121, Female DD, DOB: 25.5.13, Owner: Martin Coffman; Performing Veterinarian: Martin Coffman DVM; Pine City Vet, Jackson AL USA, Date of Radiograph: 31.12.14
Left Shoulder

Della vom SchlangenfluB: ZB# 223121, Female DD, DOB: 25.5.13, Owner: Martin Coffman; Performing Veterinarian: Martin Coffman DVM, Pine City Vet, Jackson AL USA; Date of Radiograph: 31.12.14

Step: Thorax LAT

Right Elbow Extended

ZB# 223121: Della vom SchlangenfluB; Female DD; DOB: 25.5.13; Date of Radiograph: 31.12.14 Owner: Martin Coffman; Performing DVM: Martin Coffman DVM, Pine City Vet, Jackson AL USA

RIGHT ELBOW, EXTENDED

Step: Front Extremity VD
Right Elbow 45 Degree

Della vom Schlangenfluß; ZB# 223121, Female; DOB: 25.5.13
Owner: Martin Coffman; Performing Veterinarian: Martin Coffman DVM, Pine City Vet, Jackson AL USA; Date of Radiograph: 31.12.14

Left Elbow Extended

Della vom Schlangenfluß; ZB# 223121; Female DD; DOB: 25.5.13;
Owner Martin Coffman; Performing Veterinarian: Martin Coffman DVM;
Pine City Vet, Jackson AL USA; Date of Radiograph: 31.12.14