

Hip Dysplasia in Westies?

By Kay McGuire, DVM

If you do not think Westies have hip dysplasia, please review the film below. This radiograph shows a severely dysplastic hip in a 3 year old female Westie from a well established “show breeding” kennel. Her first hip replacement was performed in 2009 at 1 year of age by Dr. Liska at Gulf Coast Veterinary Specialists in Houston, Texas. Westies are fortunate that hip replacement for small breeds has been available for about 4 years now (MicroHip). This lucky Westie will be getting her second hip replaced by Dr. Liska within the next 6 months.

Radiograph – Abnormal Hip



Severely Dysplastic

Notice the flattening of the hip joint on the left side. There is no hip joint left, just flattening of the ball and socket.



Normal Hips

This film shows two normal “ball and socket” joints. Degrees of dysplasia progress with flattening of the joint and flattening and/or arthritic changes of the femoral head or “ball.”

Recent radiographs of at least 2 year old Westies submitted to the OFA database have so far indicated approximately 12.5% of dogs screened are affected. The passing designations are excellent, good and fair and approximately half of the dogs screened are passing with fair hip joint conformation. I believe that there are many non-clinical dysplastic Westies and if we continue to screen our dogs, we will find non-clinical Legg Calve Perthes cases as well.

