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# ***Dogs' Homes of Tasmania***

Operated by the Tasmanian Canine Defence League.  
Locations at Hobart, Devonport, & Burnie.

Post Office Box 7  
Lindisfarne TAS 7015

[www.dogshomesoftas.com.au](http://www.dogshomesoftas.com.au)

## **Caring For Dogs ~ Hip Dysplasia**

Hip Dysplasia tends to occur more often in large breed dogs such as Labradors, German Shepherds, and Rottweilers however any breed or cross breed may be affected. It is caused by looseness in the hip joint, which is a ball and socket joint.

The symptoms include a swaying gait, hopping on the hind legs when running, underdeveloped rear musculature, stiffness and lameness. A diagnosis of hip dysplasia is made by taking X-rays of the hips.

The incidence and severity of HD can be addressed in two ways - responsible breeding and control of diet and exercise. Responsible breeders have their breeding animal's hip scored and then use this information to decide whether or not to breed with that particular dog. In this way, the risk of HD is gradually eliminated and the breeding lines improved.

If buying a purebred dog, request to see the hip scores as provided by the breeder's vet. Control of diet and exercise are also important factors in lessening the severity of HD.

The canine diet should be balanced and varied to include meat, pasta, rice and vegetables. An all meat diet is a common factor in hip and other joint problems.

Some exercises should also be avoided such as jumping to and from high places. High impact activities will make your dog more prone to hip dysplasia. Some dogs with minor hip dysplasia do not develop difficulties until very old, however this condition usually causes problems in early to middle age.

If detected early enough, some dogs will respond to surgery that aims to provide increased support to the ball part of the joint.

**Burnie Dogs' Home**  
170 Stowport Rd.,  
Burnie TAS 7320  
Ph: (03) 6431 6199

**Devonport Dogs' Home**  
Spreyton Park Racecourse  
Devonport TAS 7310  
Ph: (03) 6427 2178

**Hobart Dogs' Home**  
101 Scotts Rd.,  
Risdon Vale TAS 7016  
Ph: (03) 6243 5177

*The information in this brochure offers general advice on animal care and responsible dog guardianship. This information is offered in good faith however the TCDL cannot accept any responsibility for acts or omissions based on this advice.*