

BMD Hip Scores 2011 to 2016

I am in receipt of the latest figures from the KC covering the last 6 years of BVA/KC hip scoring of our breed, 2011 – 2016. Generally speaking we do not appear to have any really significant trends in this area across the breed but this is no reason for complacency. The numbers show that we are good supporters of the scheme with a steady consistent number of scored dogs. Averages can be deceptive of course as they can hide trends behind the score which only a proper statistical analysis will reveal. However, if viewing the chart you can see our average has not changed a great deal over the last six years dropping to 11.4 last year. This may not seem much but as the average drops the improvements will be slower and harder to achieve so any drop at all is to be welcomed. Looking at the figures though this drop is within the scope of annual fluctuations so it could disappear in next year's figure.

Numbers Scored and Averages of BMD BVA/KC Hip Scores 2011 - 2016							
	Over 6 Years	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Total Scored	724	112	136	121	137	117	101
Annual Average Score	11.9	12.2	11.5	12.8	11.3	12.2	11.4
Annual Lowest	0	4	0	0	0	0	2
Annual Highest	95	48	69	86	81	82	95

Looking at the breakdown of scores over the last 6 years I think things are as they would be expected to be with a more or less steady fall away from the most common score of a total of 6. There does not appear to be any sign of high set of scores being balanced by a low set of scores to produce the average in between.

Breakdown of BMD BVA/KC Hip Scores 2011 - 2016														
Score	All Dogs	%	2011 Dogs	2011 %	2012 Dogs	2012 %	2013 Dogs	2013 %	2014 Dogs	2014 %	2015 Dogs	2015 %	2016 Dogs	2016 %
All	724		112		136		121		137		117		101	
0	6	1%	0	0%	1	1%	1	1%	3	2%	1	1%	0	0%
1-5	48	7%	3	3%	10	7%	9	7%	12	9%	4	3%	10	10%
6-10	414	57%	64	57%	75	55%	69	57%	78	57%	71	61%	57	56%
11-15	133	18%	23	21%	31	23%	19	16%	25	18%	18	15%	17	17%
16-20	51	7%	8	7%	6	4%	11	9%	7	5%	9	8%	10	10%
21-30	36	5%	8	7%	8	6%	4	3%	6	4%	7	6%	3	3%
31-40	19	3%	4	4%	3	2%	1	1%	3	2%	6	5%	2	2%
41-50	6	1%	2	2%	0	0%	2	2%	1	1%	0	0%	1	1%
51-60	3	0%	0	0%	1	1%	2	2%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
61-80	4	1%	0	0%	1	1%	2	2%	1	1%	0	0%	0	0%
81-106	4	1%	0	0%	0	0%	1	1%	1	1%	1	1%	1	1%

For me there are still a few too many really high scores with the isolated headline highest score increasing in all but one year although when charted out the distribution of scores compared year to year is very consistent.

As reported in recent times the KC are moving away somewhat from individual scores to encourage the use of EBVs to more realistically assess a dog's likely contribution to the hip (and elbow) scores of it's puppies but the EBVs are compiled from individual scores so these will always be of interest. It is still essential that breeders and owners continue to score their dogs AND then act appropriately on the scores. Without wishing to make light of the effect when an individual is seriously affected, I think most would agree that hips are not a massive clinical issue across our breed but only because they have been taken seriously in the past. If we stop taking it seriously now, in these days when there is much more defined information to consider in making *balanced* breeding choices, then the breed will only go backwards in this area with higher scores and, much more importantly more affected and suffering dogs. Hip scoring is fairly routine across our breed so let's keep it that way and act accordingly on the scores and the resultant EBVs.

Steve Green BMD Breed Health CoOrdinator