

	PennHip <i>University of Pennsylvania Hip Improvement Program</i>	OFA <i>Orthopedic Foundation for Animals</i>
Age of Evaluation	Developed in late 20 th century; newer approach	Established in 1966
	As young as 16 weeks old, allowing for early detection of hip joint laxity	Evaluates mature dogs at or after age 2
Methodology	Measures hip joint laxity using the DI technique (distraction index); provides quantitative assessment of hip joint laxity	Relies on radiographic assessment of hip conformation; assigns numerical score based on subjective interpretation
Predictive Value	Offers valuable predictive information about a dog's susceptibility to developing hip dysplasia later in life, aiding in breeding decisions and proactive management	Provides a snapshot of hip conformation at a specific point in time but may not predict future development of hip dysplasia
Implications for Canine Orthopedic Care	Offers proactive approach to identifying hip joint laxity in puppies, enabling breeders to make informed breeding decisions aimed at reducing the incidence of hip dysplasia	Remains a valuable tool for assessing hip conformation in mature dogs and is widely accepted within the veterinary community

In the realm of canine hip evaluation, two prominent methods have emerged: the Orthopedic Foundation for Animals (OFA) hip scoring and the University of Pennsylvania Hip Improvement Program (PennHIP). While both aim to assess canine hip health, they employ contrasting approaches and methodologies. In this article, we delve into the differences between PennHIP and OFA, examining their respective strengths, limitations, and implications for canine orthopedic care.

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