



# Puppies Downunder Hip Dysplasia Risk Management Policy

At Puppies Downunder, we are committed to breeding healthy, well-structured dogs and take proactive measures to minimize the risk of hip and elbow dysplasia in our puppies.

## 1. Veterinary Breeding Examinations

All breeding parents undergo comprehensive veterinary health checks before being introduced into our breeding program and throughout their breeding life. These examinations include assessments of joint health, mobility, gait, and overall musculoskeletal condition. Any dog showing signs of joint abnormalities or lameness is excluded from breeding.

## 2. Ethical Breeding Practices

With over 50 years of breeding experience, we carefully select and match breeding parents to promote strong genetic diversity. Our poodle crossbreeds benefit from hybrid vigor, which significantly reduces the risk of inherited joint disorders compared to many purebred dogs.

## 3. Puppy Care and Development

We provide puppies with balanced nutrition, safe play environments, and appropriate early socialization. This foundation is essential in supporting healthy bone and joint development before they transition to their forever homes.

## 4. Understanding Genetic Limitations

Hip and elbow dysplasia are complex, polygenic conditions influenced by both genetics and environmental factors. Even with perfect parental health and regular veterinary checks, it is not possible to completely eliminate the risk of these conditions in offspring.

## 5. Comprehensive Health Guarantee

Our health guarantee exceeds industry standards. If hip dysplasia occurs, we will honor a full refund and cover the cost of return transport (should you choose to return the dog), provided:

- A qualified veterinarian diagnoses the condition and it is confirmed by a second independent veterinary opinion
- The dog has maintained a healthy weight appropriate for its breed and size
- The condition has not been caused or worsened by environmental factors such as injury, excessive exercise during growth, or poor nutrition

Through these measures, Puppies Downunder provides families with peace of mind that we have taken every practical and ethical step to reduce the likelihood of hip and elbow issues while offering strong support if an issue arises.