

# RELEASE FORM

**HOSPITAL:** PLEASANT VALLEY VETERINARY SERVICES, LLC  
DR. MARY STANKOVICS (1120)

## PATIENT INFORMATION

**Owner:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Animal's Name:** \_\_\_\_\_



PennHIP x-rays are a diagnostic tool used to determine a dog's hip conformation and measured passive hip laxity. We carefully perform the necessary procedures to take the x-rays and will send them to be analyzed by trained specialists at the University of Pennsylvania. The evaluation will include a measurement of the dog's hip laxity reported as the PennHIP Distraction Index (DI). Scientific studies have proven that hip laxity, as measured by the PennHIP method, is a key factor in determining the risk for developing degenerative joint disease (DJD) later in life. The PennHIP report will also include an assessment of any existing signs of radiographic DJD which is confirmation of hip dysplasia. A copy of the report will be mailed to you within two weeks of the PennHIP Analysis Center receiving your dog's radiographic films.

The PennHIP procedure is not dangerous to your dog's hips. However, in some dogs, a phenomenon known as cavitation can occur in the hip joint during the procedure. Cavitation refers to a temporary development of nitrogen bubbles in a joint. In people, the equivalent occurs when a person cracks their knuckles. This phenomenon has no adverse effects on the joint, however, the bubbles may make the hip joint appear more lax and artificially worsen a dog's hip score. If cavitation appears in only one hip, the other hip measurement can be used to evaluate the dog; if it appears in both hips, PennHIP will not be able to issue an evaluation report, and **the x-ray procedure must be repeated at a later date**. If this occurs, you will be charged for a second anesthetic procedure; you will not be charged for additional x-rays, or the PennHIP evaluation fee.

Every attempt will be made to take quality x-rays for this technique and avoid cavitation; however, it occasionally occurs in spite of our best efforts.

By signing below, you indicate that you have read and understand the above.

**Owner's Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** 04/19/2026