

**ELTHAM  
VETERINARY  
PRACTICE**



Proud winner  
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Award 2011

21<sup>st</sup> August 2013

To whom it may concern.

Re: Max O'Reilly

At the request of the owner Sarah O'Reilly I submit the following opinion.

Max was brought to us by Sarah because he had been walking "like a cowboy" and bunny hopping at about 13 months of age. I understand he had been doing this for some time.

My associate Dr Mina Hamilton examined him and found that he had wide based stance, stilted gait, and was short stepping in his hindlimbs.

She found that his Left hindlimb had a grade 3-4 luxating patella (dislocating kneecap) that was difficult to get back into the normal position, and laxity (looseness) and palpable movement in both coxofemoral (hip) joints – and he resented manipulation of the hips

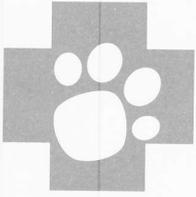
Her Assessment was that Max had luxating patella in both knees, and likely hip dysplasia in both hips.

Her plan was to xray and manipulate Max's hips under anaesthetic and to consider surgery on the worst luxating patella.

This was done a week or so later and we found severe hip laxity! The hips were some of the worst I have seen, and I would predict the development of severe hip arthritis with these hips within a period of months.

I also did a basic repair of one of the luxating patellas, although it turned out to be ineffective at keeping the kneecap in its correct position and a more advanced surgery with an osteotomy (cutting of the bone) was needed to improve things.

About a month later, due to Max's ongoing knee and hip problems and the prospect of some very expensive surgery on all 4 joints, Sarah O'Reilly and her family reluctantly agree to Put Max to Sleep.



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IN summary, Max has been what I would call a "genetic disaster". The hip problems alone were a very serious genetic problem that would render the dog's life to be one of chronic pain and exercise restriction. Add to that the luxated patellas and he was basically an orthopaedic mess.

Whilst it's not always possible to predict the outcome of any given mating of 2 dogs, the parents of Max should never be bred again, either together or with any other dog. I also have advised Sarah and family to request a full refund on the purchase price of Max, given his genetic problems and the heartbreak that they have caused.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Steve Pryor BVSc, MANZCVSc (Surgery)