

Video Collection of Early Takeoffs & Related Signs

This is a collection of videos that demonstrate early takeoffs (ETOs) and related signs of varying degrees. They are intended to help further your understanding of what early takeoffs look like, both subtle and more pronounced.

The videos are organized by size, small or large dogs, with each breed listed in alphabetical order. Available background information known about the dog is given.

In each section you will find longer videos labeled “Progression” which consist of a compilation of videos from early in the dog’s career to late, or “Comparison” which means the dog’s jumping is shown in slow motion compared to another dog or in different jumping scenarios. These are the best videos to start with. There is also miscellaneous section at the end.

Small Dogs

Australian Terrier

This is an Australian Terrier with ETOs.

https://youtu.be/GPKHxuCc_w0

Lowchen #1

This is a Lowchen with ETOs.

<https://youtu.be/YdjI3BlhmRU>

Lowchen #2

This dog is 3 years old and 11 inches tall. She competed at 12 inches in 2016 and was dropped to 8 inches. She had a CERF exam which was clear, but no other testing.

<https://youtu.be/KdA3-VZfAf8>

Norwegian Elkhound

This is a Norwegian Elkhound with ETOs.

<https://youtu.be/O7nrZReC91o>

Papillon

This dog competes at 8 inches. He has unilateral strabismus which has also appeared in other dogs in his line. Ophthalmologist: no diagnosis other than “possible vision processing issue.”

<https://youtu.be/DkbeRq1HiWk>

Pug

This dog is 3 years old. He is almost 13 inches tall and began his career jumping at 12 inches. He started stutter stepping and was dropped to 8 inches where he did improve. He was diagnosed with intermittent alternating exotropia.

<https://youtu.be/HmAtdg7tP1w>

Pyrenean Shepherd

This is a Pyrenean Shepherd with ETOs.

<https://youtu.be/rE3aOFrCkuE>

Shetland Sheepdog #1: Progression Video

This dog is sired by a dog with ETOs and has a half-brother that is also affected. Her ETO signs were first noticed at 3 years of age. ETOs were amplified when her jump height increased from 16 inches to 18 inches to prepare for European Open tryouts.

The first video shows her progression from minimal signs at 1.5 to 2 years, to first signs noted, followed by severe signs at 3 to 3.5 years. The rapid decline may be due to the jump height increase to prepare for the tryouts.

The second video reflects the severe ETOs before a plan to build confidence and manage the jumps was implemented. She was started over at 8 inches and worked back up to 16 inches USDAA Performance (not AKC due to spreads). The ophthalmologist did not find any abnormalities.

https://youtu.be/SBUDbX_DYq0

Shetland Sheepdog #2: Progression Video

This Sheltie measured into the 16-inch Championship division in USDAA. The video shows a progression of her ETOs, including early runs competing as a 3-year-old at 12 inches in the AKC Championship class where jumping problems are barely noticeable, followed by a run at 12 inches when ETOs are more apparent, and finally to where she had been dropped to 8" Preferred in AKC at 7 years of age. This video was made several years ago when we still referred to early takeoffs as "ETS" or early takeoff syndrome.

<https://youtu.be/wJ4iYLoPD84>

Shetland Sheepdog #3

This dog began agility jumping 16 inches but measured down to 12 inches around 5 years old. Her jumping improved at the lower height, but hesitation and overjumping are visible in this video.

<https://youtu.be/CtpOgDHlkmY>

Shetland Sheepdog #4

This dog, who is approximately 4 to 5 years old in these videos, had to be retired at age 5 for safety. Although some misjudgments look worrisome, he was never injured. He was retired in order to preserve his soundness.

https://youtu.be/F3_CgJPmUBI

Large Dogs

Australian Shepherd #1: Comparison Videos

This dog is an Australian Shepherd with a tail. Her CERF and retinoscopy were normal. Per her owner, poor structure may contribute to her difficulties. Her jumping problems were present at 2 years. She had surgery for an acute supraspinatus tendon tear in December 2015 at age 3. There was no significant improvement in her ETOs after surgery. She is now almost 5 years old.

<https://youtu.be/RMSQrAryVoo>

Australian Shepherd #2

This dog had ETOs as well as other neurological signs unrelated to vision. He underwent a CAT scan and vascular abnormalities were found in his brain. Of course if the dog's brain does not interpret the information it gets from the eyes correctly, vision problems will result. He began his career at 20 inches and was dropped to 16 inches as a result of ETOs.

<https://youtu.be/WGFowQk957I>

Border Collie #1: Progression Video

This video shows the progression of a Border Collie's ETOs. This dog was 20.5 inches tall and jumped 20, 22, and 26 inches. He was retired from agility at 6 years. An exam by an optometrist did not reveal any obvious vision issue, but the owner reports that the dog always misjudged distance, even around the house.

<https://youtu.be/AyYqaNy9CCE>

Border Collie #2: Comparison Video

This video shows a comparison of jumping arcs and takeoff distances with different setup distances and jump heights between a 7-year-old dog with ETOs and a normal jumping 2-year-old dog.

The dog with ETOs is about 17.75" tall. She has other close relatives displaying jumping issues. She was diagnosed as slightly far-sighted, which her owner reports fits with her behavior in multiple ways; however, there seemed to be more issues than might be expected with the amount of far-sightedness she was diagnosed with.

<https://youtu.be/tb1pNSiJIM8>

Border Collie #3

This is a Border Collie with ETOs that showed subtle signs as a 2-year-old.

<https://youtu.be/ZQS88TsWu-k>

Border Collie #4

This is a Border Collie with ETOs.

<https://youtu.be/qt1vAkqdfFc>

German Shepherd Dog

This is German Shepherd with ETOs. Note that the dog does better in light conditions vs. dark on several courses.

<https://youtu.be/N8ExgkqYFGQ>

Soft-Coated Wheaten Terrier

This is a 3-year-old Soft-Coated Wheaten Terrier with ETOs.

<https://youtu.be/ZHLbBiqS3ZA>

Tervuren

This is a Tervuren with ETOs. He was determined to be normal by a veterinary ophthalmologist and to have astigmatism by optometrist. The dog is shown competing in Novice at the age of 3 years, 9 months and in Excellent at 5 years, 2 month

https://youtu.be/mvp_HYeVhE4

Miscellaneous Clips

Corrective Lenses

This Sheltie has mild ETOs. The video shows his performance with and without contact lenses. Although the improvement in his jumping is clear evidence that ETOs are caused by vision impairment, unfortunately contact lenses are not the answer. They are difficult to fit, difficult to manage, and haven't proven to be practical enough for general use. This video is included to demonstrate that ETOs *are* caused by vision problems.

<https://youtu.be/gt9tjbEZEog>

Wing Channel

Using this setup is **not** advised. Grids and jumping drills that are challenging will result in failure, leading to loss of confidence.

<https://youtu.be/c9TIesGhgNY>

Hugging Standards

Some dogs gravitate toward one standard/wing or the other consistently. This dog hugs the right side of the jumps.

https://youtu.be/m_RGBeTWqw