

## **ANNUAL HEALTH REPORT 2016**

### **Registrations**

In 2015, 203 puppies were registered from 37 litters; this is only 5 puppies less than in 2014. In addition 11 dogs were imported to the UK and 3 were exported.

### **Breed Health Plan**

The Breed Health Plan, developed in 2013, is reviewed and amended annually by the Health & Welfare Sub Committee and endorsed by the Committee. This document provides much information about the current known health of the breed and guidelines for all breeders to consider when planning a litter. The Breed Health Plan is subject to an annual review so that it can be kept up to date.

### **Surveys**

#### **a/ Lifespan Survey**

During 2015 only 3 forms were returned; two were for elderly dogs.

The first, aged over 13 years, choked on food and the second, aged 11, records the death being attributable to a mammary tumour.

The third case was for a 6 year old that was put to sleep due to severe damage to elbow resulting in a Y fracture.

#### **b/ Breeding Survey**

3 forms were returned and only 1 reported problems with whelping; that being uterine inertia. 2 reported mastitis.

Two litters' recorded stillborn puppies and 2 further puppies did not survive; of the 18 surviving puppies 12 were recorded as having umbilical hernias, 3 with crooked tails and 2 with overshot jaws.

### **Health Screening**

#### **a/ Eye Testing**

The Clumber Spaniel Club has always recommended health screening and eye testing with the KC/BVA Eye Scheme has been utilised by some over the years. However the results are not published therefore in 2009 the Club started its own database for the results and anyone with an eye test certificate for a Clumber is invited to forward a copy. This will enable the Club to gather information on the true status of the breed's eye health.

The Club agreed to subsidise the cost of eye testing for its members throughout 2012; in 2013 the subsidy was extended at a lesser rate to cover non members Clumbers and this is being repeated each year since. An eye testing session is now held in conjunction with the Club's Championship Show each year. In 2015 this was further supported by a grant of £500 from the Kennel Club Charitable Trust, this enabled to Club to provide free testing for all dogs aged 8 and over.

In 2015 the BVA issued 57 eye test certificates for individual Clumber Spaniels (an increase from 49 in 2014). The sightings from these forms are not available at the time of writing this report. No certificates were issued by the AHT or ECVO Eye Schemes.

The Club received copies of 26 of these certificates for the database which can be found on the Club's website.

Eye Testing is recommended for Assured Breeders.

### **b/ Hip & Elbow Scoring**

Hip Scoring is recommended for all breeding stock and in 2015 a total of 61 Clumbers were screened for Hip Dysplasia; 31 were also screened for Elbow Dysplasia. This shows a 20% and 35% increase respectively on the 2014 figures.

Hip Scoring is a requirement for Assured Breeders.

The 5-year Rolling Trends in hip scoring show continuing improvement in hip health. For the 5 years ending in 2015 it can be noted 24% of the dogs registered in that period were hip scored which is excellent for a numerically small breed and 116 dogs (45.3% of the total scored) had a score of 10 or less. The Median based on 15 years is 12 and over 5 years is 11.

### **Estimated Breeding Values (EBVs)**

As a good proportion of the Clumber Spaniel population has been hip scored the Kennel Club have developed Estimated Breeding Values for the breed. This tool uses all screening data and pedigree information from the individual dog and its surrounding family, to more effectively determine the genetic risk that each dog will pass this disease to its progeny and is more accurate than by using an individual dog's test score alone.

This was introduced in 2015 and can be found on the KC Mate Select site.

### **c/ Pyruvate Dehydrogenase Phosphatase 1 Deficiency (PDP1) Screening**

In 2015, 14 Clumbers were tested for PDP1 and all were Clear.

It is recommended that all breeding stock is tested for PDP1. This is carried out by Laboklin and arrangements have been made for a discounted test fee through the Club.

PDP1 Testing is recommended for Assured Breeders.

### **d/ Exercise Induced Collapse (EIC)**

EIC emerged in Clumber Spaniels in August 2015; it is due to a genetic fault and is proving to be more widespread than the PDP1. Affected dogs may be symptomatic whilst others show no symptoms at all but are at risk of developing symptoms at any time during their life. A DNA test has been developed and validated by Laboklin and the Kennel Club have recognised the test as an Official DNA Test for the Breed. The condition follows an autosomal recessive trait of inheritance and therefore has a clear mode of inheritance; this should enable breeding out the condition within a few generations. The Club has established a voluntary database for results and will also include the published results. At the end of 2015 the results show that 51.5% of dogs tested are "Clear", 39.5% are "Carriers" and 9% are "Affected". However this does not give an accurate picture as most of the dogs tested to validate the test were those suspected of having the condition and their results led to a significant number of related dogs being tested. Therefore more results from different bloodlines are needed to determine the true prevalence within the Breed.

## **Incomplete Ossification of the Humeral Condyle (IOHC)/ Elbow Y Fractures**

IOHC (also known as humeral intracondylar fissure, HIF) is a condition in which there is a weakness in the humeral condyle (part of the elbow joint in the forelimb) and it is most commonly seen in spaniels, This condition predisposes to fractures (breaks) of the humeral condyle and can also cause lameness in its own right without fracture.

4 cases were reported in Clumbers in 2015 however no cases have been recorded in past Breed Health Surveys. Therefore monitoring of this condition will continue.

## **Population Size & Inbreeding Coefficient**

The Kennel Club report on the Breed Population Analysis, published in September 2015, showed an estimated effective population size of 24.5.

This is of great concern for the following reasons.

Effective population sizes above 100 are sustainable.

The rate of loss of genetic diversity within a breed or population increases dramatically when the effective population size is less than 100.

An effective population size that is less than 50 is considered to be at high risk of detrimental effects of inbreeding.

In 2014 the way the Kennel Club calculates the inbreeding coefficient was changed and it is now recalculated every June; the Clumber Spaniel currently stands at 18.2%.

## **Publishing of Results & Surveys**

In 2013 the Health Pages of the Club's website were expanded to include all past results and reports since 1985 thus making the information accessible to all.

Current surveys and databases are also published on the website and are regularly updated.