

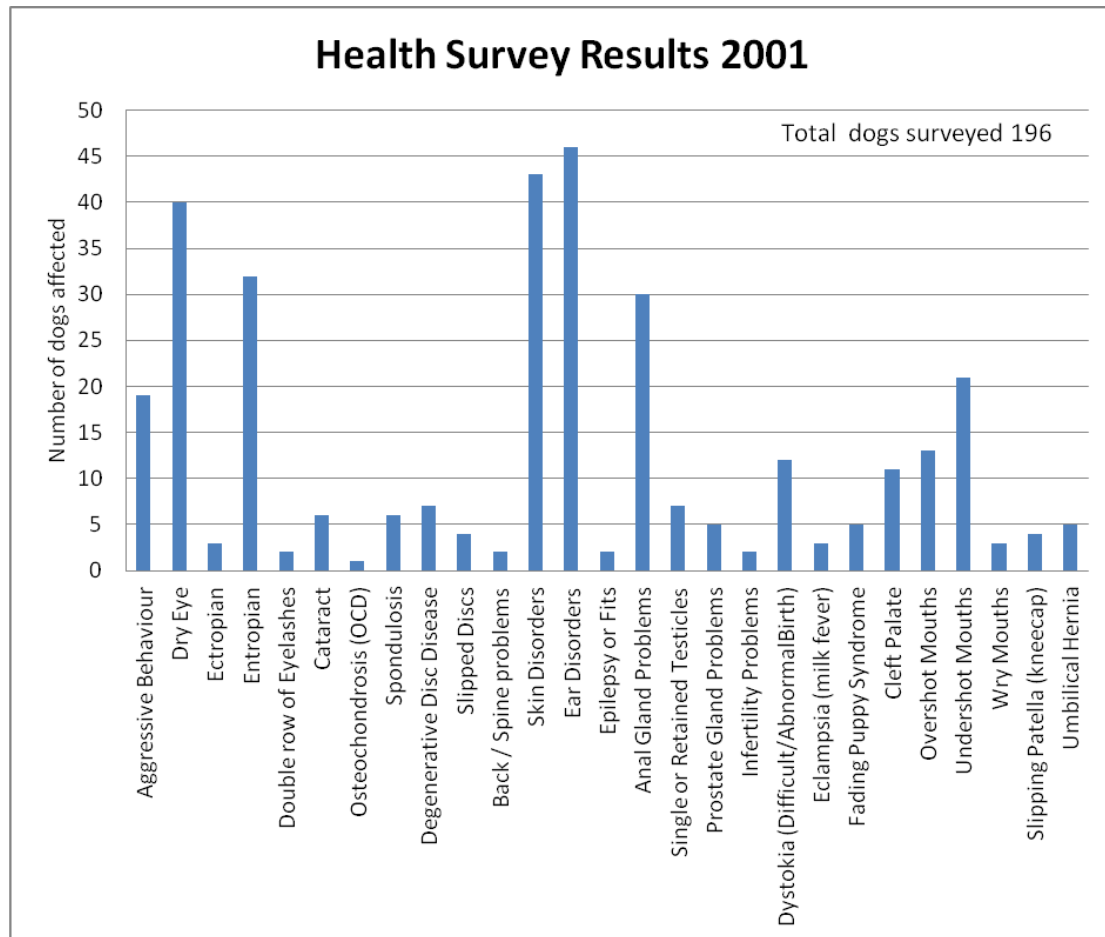
The Clumber Spaniel Club

Health Survey Results Summary

Many thanks to all of those who took the trouble to complete and return the health survey forms, 26% of forms were returned including overseas responses from Sweden, Australia and the USA, and gives data on 196 Clumbers.

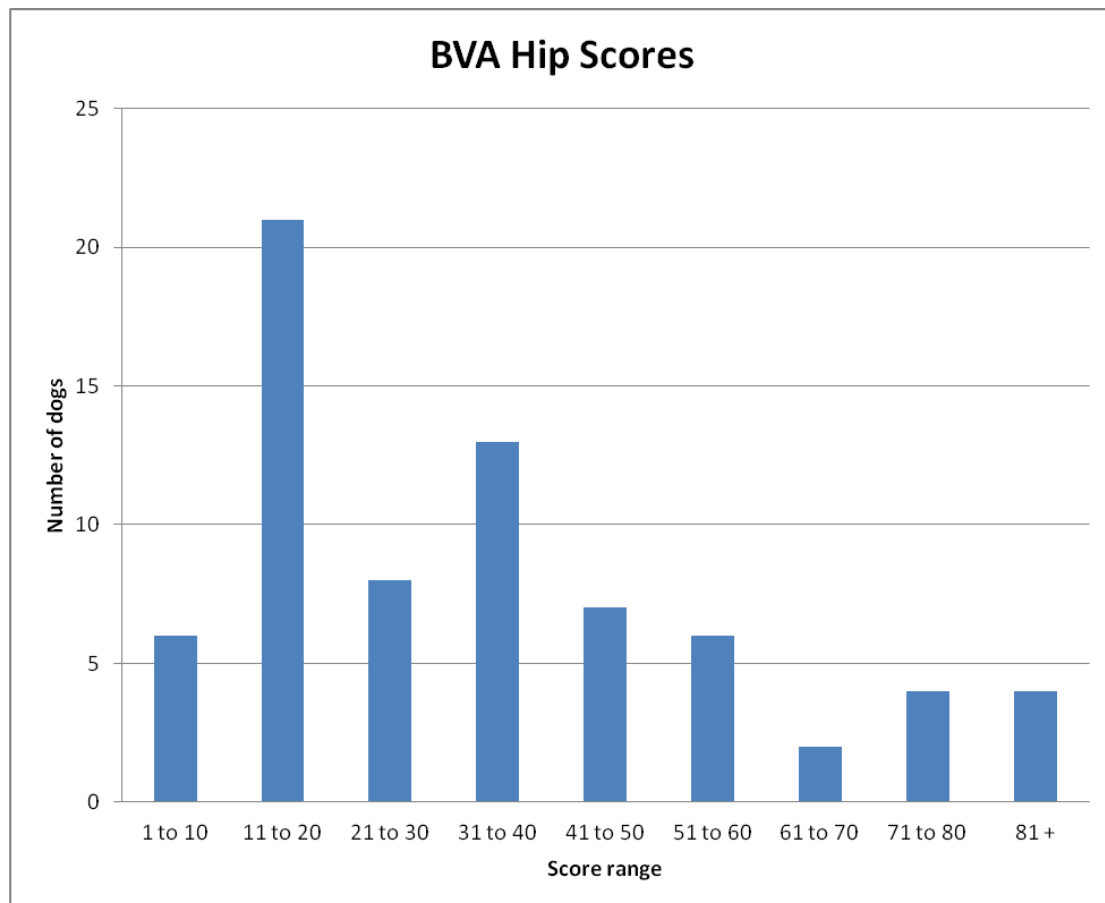
The survey form listed conditions that were considered genetic breed problems and the information returned provides us with statistics that highlight the extent of those problems within the breed. The results of the survey are represented here in graph form.

Types of diet have not been included as many people indicated that they fed a range of the options rather than one type which is difficult to represent on a graph. Complete foods were the most popular diet.



As you will see, ear disorders were the most common problem closely followed by skin disorders. Some respondents did indicate that ears had required surgery and some skin disorders related to allergies however the severity of these conditions for the breed cannot be assessed from this survey form.

Eye problems, particularly dry eye and entropian are still prevalent likewise bad mouths. Only by careful selection of breeding stock can these problems be addressed. A significant number of Clumbers are also troubled by anal gland problems.



Hip Scores - Other Schemes.

AVA / NZVA	1 - 10	3
	11 - 20	3
	31 - 40	2
	41 - 50	2
	51 - 60	1
Swedish	1 - 10	1
OFA USA	Good	1
	Fair	2

36% of the Clumbers surveyed had been hip scored and the majority of these were in the lower score range. This prompted me to look at the breed hip scores (it is 10 years since the KC started publishing these figures) to see if the survey results did represent an improvement in the breed. The current breed average of 42 is based on all the scores ever recorded. But using the scores for the last 10 years only, a breed average for that period calculates as 37. This would indicate that some progress is being made, however the full picture can only be seen when all Clumbers are hip scored – until then we only have a few pieces of the puzzle.

Spinal problems (degenerative disc disorders / slipped discs / spondulosis) also recorded a considerable number of cases. Collectively these amounted to 9.7% of the Clumbers surveyed. Is this a breed problem that has not been recognised in the past or are an increasing number of Clumbers being affected?

Disturbingly the same percentage of Clumbers (9.7%) were also recorded as displaying aggressive behaviour.

Interestingly only one respondent listed umbilical hernias, I could have doubled the number of cases had I thought to list my own Clumbers and I am sure that there are many more that

are affected. This is recognised as an hereditary condition and perhaps should be added to the list for the next survey in order to ascertain the extent of this condition.

Other issues that were raised recorded only 1 or 2 cases and therefore we may speculate as to whether these are indeed “breed” problems. With so few cases they are not represented on the graph but are listed here:

Hypothyroidism	(1)	Prolapsed Harderian Gland	(1)
Tumour on spleen	(2)	Liver Failure	(1)
Heart Murmur	(1)	Leukemia	(1)
Osteoarthritis	(1)	Bladder Stones	(1)
Haemangio Sarcoma	(1)	Amasarca	(1)
Fissures in the Bone	(1)	Panosteoitis	(1)
Genetic Hock Joint Problem	(1)	Soft Palette	(1)

Sadly the two cases of tumour on the spleen were both recorded by the same respondent (on relatively young Clumbers) who asks if this is a breed problem, however as no other cases were recorded it is not possible to know.

From additional comments sent with the forms, many of you asked that: -

- a. The results of this survey be published
and
- b. That this survey be the beginning of a Club Health Scheme.

A general view that we need to be more open about our breed problems was also evident.

I am in no way qualified to analyse these results, they are merely collated to provide statistics. However they do indicate the areas that need to be addressed and where we go from here is open to debate. For meaningful research we would need expert help and more detailed information, perhaps with all Clumbers being identified – would respondents be so willing to volunteer this information? Research is also expensive and the club’s research fund could quickly disappear, although it may be possible to apply for assistance from the KC Health Foundation Fund, an option not previously available to the club.

Do you have any views or suggestions on what research / health scheme that you believe the club should undertake and which problems should be prioritised? If so we would welcome your written comments on the matter.

If more of the survey forms are returned these results could be updated for the next newsletter.

Carol Page