**ANNUAL HEALTH REPORT 2020**

**Registrations**

In 2019, 173 puppies were registered from 35 litters; in addition 2 dogs were imported to the UK and 2 were exported. This is significant drop from 280 in 2018.

**Breed Health Plan**

The 2018 Breed Health Plan, following an extensive review, was published in February 2019 having been approved by the Committees of both the Clumber Spaniel Club and the Working Clumber Spaniel Association.

Following consultation with The Kennel Club a Breed Health & Conservation Plan was also agreed; this is to be used as in internal document but its content influences and is incorporated into the published Breed Health Plan.

**Surveys**

**a/ Lifespan Survey**

During 2019, 4 forms were received of which 2 recorded dogs that had passed away in 2018.

One aged 15 years 6mounths and one aged 12 years 11 months reported age related problems as cause of death.

One aged 11years was put to sleep with stomach cancer.

One aged 11 years was put to sleep having suffered catastrophic heart failure and had been diagnosed with a heart condition the preceding year.

**b/ Breeding Survey**

5 breeding survey forms were returned for 2019. Of these 3 reported problems with whelping; 2 required Caesarean Sections but one was for the last 2 puppies only; one reported a physical blockage but did not require a Caesarean Section. One bitch had late milk.

Only 1 litter reported 1 stillborn puppy and 1 lost later; of the 32 surviving puppies 1 was recorded as having an umbilical hernia and 1 with a crooked tail.

**c/ 2019 Breed Health Survey**

A Breed Health Survey was carried out in 2019 and the results have been published. It is now possible to evaluate the results against previous health surveys and the following graphs show comparisons on the principal conditions.

In 2019 the survey contained more detailed questions regarding IOHC and elbow breaks as a result of an increase in case reports; earlier surveys had linked elbow problems with osteochondrosis and so there will not be a direct comparison at this time.

Clumber Spaniel Eye Problems (Survey Data)

Clumber Spaniel Mouth Problems (Survey Data)

Clumber Spaniel Musculo-skeletal Problems (Survey Data)

General Disorders (Survey Data)

**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 started to subsidise the cost of eye testing for its members in 2012 and in 2013 the subsidy was extended at a lesser rate to cover non members Clumbers and this has being repeated each year since. The Club now provides free testing for all dogs aged 8 and over and an eye testing session is now held in conjunction with the Club’s Championship Show each year.

In 2019 the BVA issued 56 eye test certificates for individual Clumber Spaniels, a drop from 59 in 2018. The BVA sightings from the certificates issued in 2018 note 30 cases of combined entropion/ectropion and 2 cases of nuclear cataract.

No certificates were issued by the AHT or ECVO Eye Schemes.

The Club received 28 copies of these certificates for the database which can be found on the Club’s website.

For the 5 years ending in 2019 26% of the dogs registered in the period had an eye test although some dogs may have been tested more than once in that time.

Eye Testing is recommended for Assured Breeders.

**PRA (Progressive Retinal Atrophy)**

Progressive Retinal Atrophy (PRA) is an inherited disease of the retina that leads to blindness in affected dogs; the condition usually takes a long time to develop and night blindness can be an early indicator. As the disease progresses, dogs will also lose the ability to see when it is light and eventually will lose their sight completely. There are many genetic variants, each affecting different breeds, but all cause a degeneration of the retina at the back of the eye. It is a disease that is often identified as a late onset condition in that it is seen in older dogs. Currently there is no treatment for progressive retinal atrophy.

Some Clumbers may lose their sight but this can be due to a variety of causes as is evident from the BVA eye test results.

The Clumber Spaniel Club became aware that a number of Clumber Spaniels that have been screened by Embark in the USA have been identified as carriers for PRA with a limited few being found to have two copies of the faulty gene; however none of these are clinically affected.

Advice was sought from the Kennel Club, the British Veterinary Association and the Animal Health Trust and as there had never been a recorded case of PRA in the UK for Clumbers it was thought that although we may find a high level of carriers with the faulty gene, either the gene that is identified did not lead to PRA in Clumbers or they have something else that keeps them from developing it.

Subsequently a single 12 year old dog has been confirmed as clinically affected with PRA and a DNA sample was tested by the AHT under the their new CRIEED project to determine which variant of the disease was present. The PRA mutation that has been found is the RPGRIP1 (cord 1**)** variant that was first identified in Miniature Dachshunds by the AHT and has since been noted in English Springer Spaniels. It is a recessively inherited condition and a dog would need to inherit two copies of the faulty gene to be at risk of developing this form of PRA.

Laboklin has validated a DNA test using samples from the clinically affected dog plus several Clumbers that Embark had determined to have two copies of the faulty gene but were not yet clinically affected. The sample for the test is gathered by a simple mouth swab and members of the Clumber Spaniel Club will qualify for a 10% discount on the Laboklin test

**b/ Hip & Elbow Scoring**

Hip Scoring is recommended for all breeding stock and in 2019 a total of 55 Clumbers were screened for Hip Dysplasia an increase on the 2018 figure of 46; 51 were also screened for Elbow Dysplasia which is 21 dogs more than in 2018.

Hip Scoring is a requirement for Assured Breeders.

The 5-year Rolling Trends in hip scoring shows the improvement in hip health is being maintained. For the 5 years ending in 2019 it can be noted that 23.5% of the dogs registered in that period were hip scored and 131 dogs (50.3% of the total scored) had a score of 10 or less. The lowest score for 2019 was 0 and the highest score was 64. The Median based on 5 years stands at 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 2019, 16 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 2019 the results of 400 dogs were known; of these 220 are Clear (55%), 163 are Carriers (41%) and 17 are affected (4%).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.

There may be a genetic basis to IOHC/HIF, but as yet, this has not been determined.

During 2019 a number of cases of Clumbers suffering from elbow breaks were reported and led to the

2019 Breed Health Survey including a question on IOHC in order to gain more evidence on this condition.

Data from all of the reported cases has been compiled so that research into this condition can be carried out.

**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 2019 the inbreeding coefficient for Clumber Spaniels stood at 17.9% showing an increase back to the level in 2017.

**Kennel Club Judges Health Monitoring**

The Kennel Club’s feedback from Championship Show Judges questionnaires concerning Breed Watch Points of Concern have now been received for 2018 and 2019; however the Kennel Club system for reminding judges to send in their forms was altered and therefore only one report was received for 2019.

In 2018 the report shows an increase to 486 entries at Championship Shows; newly reported conditions were excessively woolly coat, unstable hocks and grossly undershot jaw. The highest reported condition being overweight (3%) followed by weak hindquarters (1.8%).