**ANNUAL HEALTH REPORT 2021**

**Registrations**

In 2020, 185 puppies were registered from 35 litters; this shows a slight increase from 173 in 2019. In addition 3 imports were registered.

**Surveys**

**a/ Lifespan Survey**

During 2020 4 forms were received.

One aged 13 years 11 months and one aged 11 years 11 months reported age related problems as cause of death.

One aged 14years was put to sleep due to a cruciate ligament issue.

One aged 9 years 6 months was put to sleep due to diabetes.

**b/ Breeding Survey**

Only 2 breeding survey forms were returned for 2020; of these 1required an emergency Caesarean Section.

1 litter reported 1 surviving puppy, 1 stillborn puppy and 1 lost later and the other reported a single puppy born. No further issues with the dams or puppies were noted.

**Health Screening**

It should be noted that in 2020 the Covid 19 pandemic impacted on the availability of some health screening testing and therefore the number of dogs being screened for some conditions is lower than usual.

**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.

At the time of writing the BVA has not yet provided data for the number of eye test certificates for individual Clumber Spaniels in 2020 or the BVA sightings from the certificates issued in 2019. No certificates were issued by the AHT or ECVO Eye Schemes.

The Club received 9 copies of eye certificates issued in 2020 for the database which can be found on the Club’s website. For the 5 years ending in 2020 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. Until the data for 2020 becomes available it is not possible to update the 5 year rolling trend.

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. Two Clumbers are confirmed to be clinically affected.

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 2020 a total of 32 Clumbers were screened for Hip Dysplasia which is a decrease on the 2019 figure of 55; 27 were also screened for Elbow Dysplasia which is 24 dogs less than in 2019.

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 2020 it can be noted that 21.2% of the dogs registered in that period were hip scored and 129 dogs (56.3% of the total scored) had a score of 10 or less. The lowest score for 2020 was a total of 3 and the highest score was a total of 31. The Median based on 5 years stands at 10.

**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 Kennel Club’s website.

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

In 2020, 14 Clumbers were tested for PDP1 and all were Clear. There are 251 PDP1 test results recorded on the Club’s database and only 4 carriers of have ever been found in the UK.

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 also includes the published results.

At the end of 2020 the results of 426 dogs were known; of these 235 are Clear (55%), 174 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.

A number of cases of Clumbers suffering from elbow breaks have been reported and data from all of the reported cases has been compiled so that research into this condition can be investigated.

**Population Size & Inbreeding Coefficient**

The Inbreeding Coefficient for each breed is revised annually and currently stands at 15.7% which is a drop from 17.9%.

**Kennel Club Judges Health Monitoring**

There has been no report from The Kennel Club’s feedback from Championship Show Judges questionnaires concerning Breed Watch Points of Concern for 2020.