

Clumber Spaniel 2019 Health Survey Report

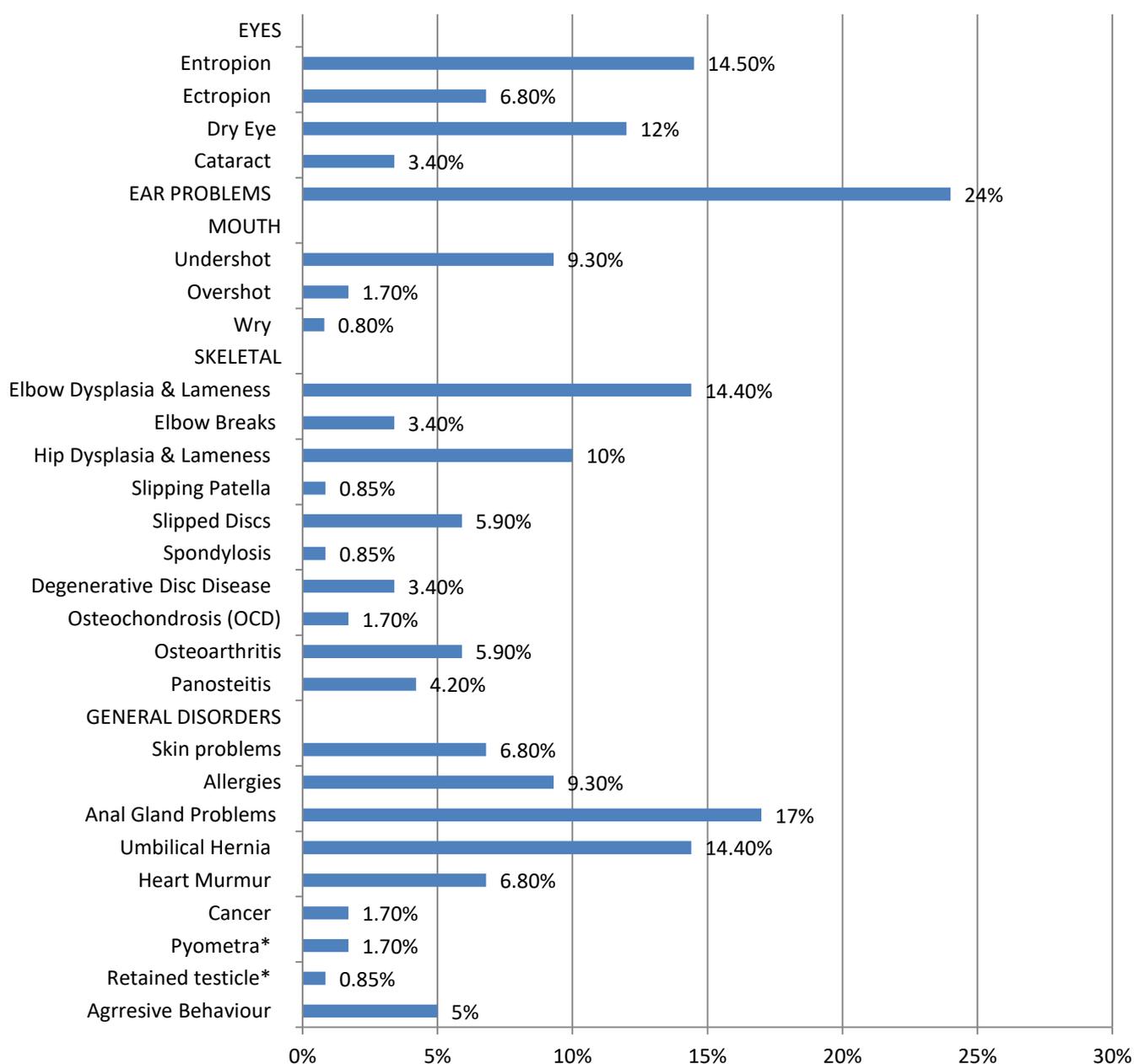
The survey was launched in October 2019 and closed at the end of January 2020. It was circulated to all Clumber Spaniel Club members and promoted on the internet by the Clumber Spaniel Club, Working Clumber Spaniel Society, the Kennel Club and CSH UK.

It was restricted to the UK so that an overview of the current health situation of the UK Clumber population could be gained.

On the completion of this analysis all forms will be destroyed.

A total of 118 forms were returned, of these 56 were for dogs and 62 for bitches. The eldest dog in the survey was born in April 2004 and the youngest was born in October 2019. Six dogs were less than 1 year of age and 15 were 10 years old and above.

Summary of Results (* indicates percentage of dogs or bitches as appropriate)

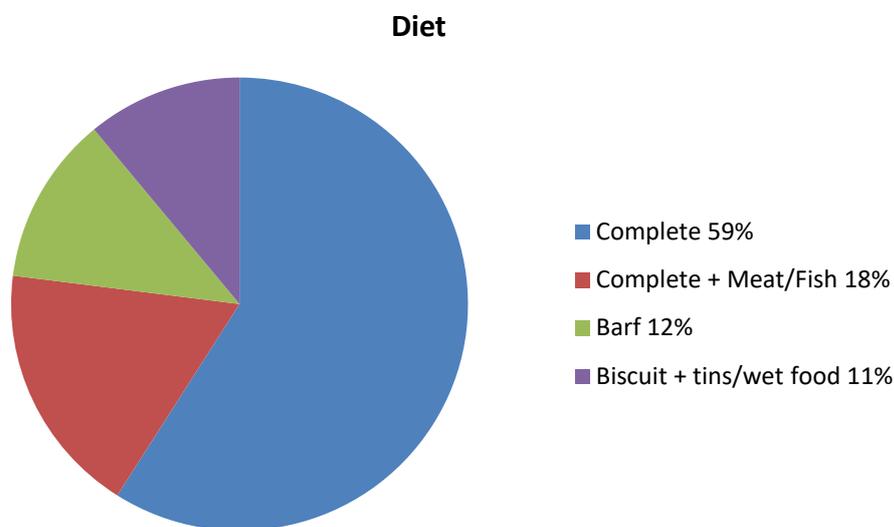


A small number of respondents did not indicate if their Clumbers had been neutered, the following table shows the results for those that did.

	Not Neutered	Neutered
Dogs	44 (78.6%)	11 (19.6%)
Bitches	39 (65%)	21 (35%)

DIET

The majority of dogs were fed complete food, closely followed by a mix of complete and raw or cooked meat, fish and/or vegetables. Equal numbers of dogs were fed on a Barf diet or on a mix of biscuits with tinned or wet food.



HOUSING

75% of Clumbers lived indoors; 15% lived in the house with time outside in kennels and 10% lived in kennels with outdoor runs.

EXERCISE

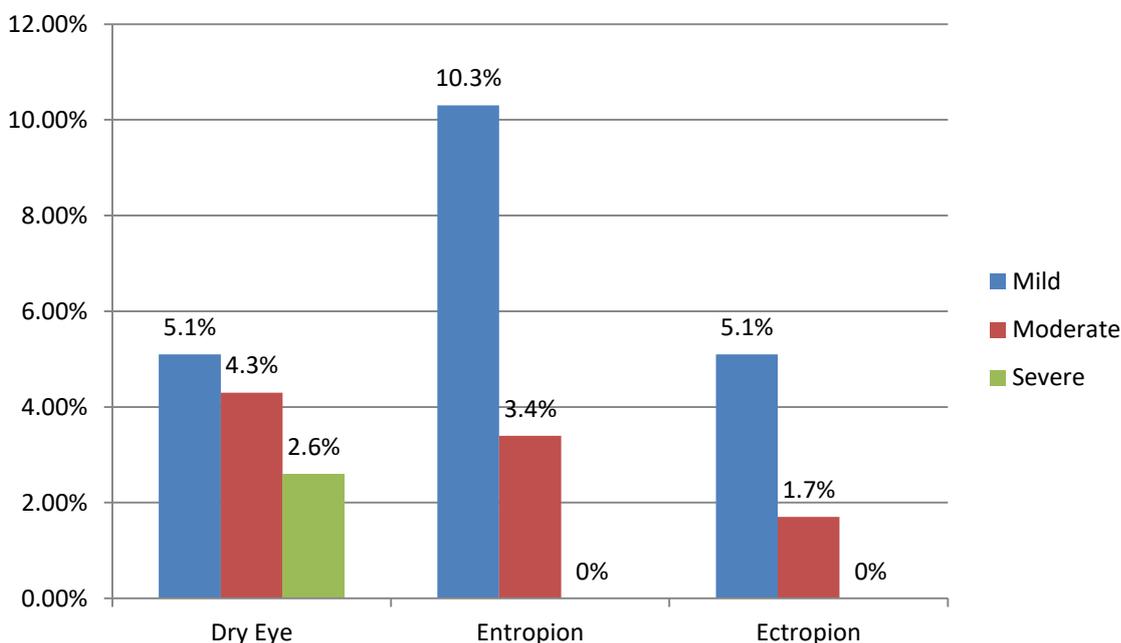
Levels of exercise were extremely varied with 80% of respondents stating daily walks. Some were more specific stating the time spent walking and frequency of walks; this ranged from ½ mile/day to 5 miles/day and many had a combination of lead walking plus free running and / or gundog training. A small number reported free running only (8%) and 2 respondents reported using a treadmill to supplement exercise. There was 1 report of agility and 1 report of hooper training as additional exercise. 8.5 % reported short walks, garden or gentle exercise mostly for dogs aged 10 years and above.

EYE HEALTH

A total of 77 dogs (65%) reported no eye health issues and 41 dogs (35%) reported one or more eye conditions.

The number of dogs with one or more BVA/KC eye test was 63 (53.4%), those that had never had an eye test were 50 (42.4%) and 5 (4.2%) did not indicate whether the dog had or had not had an eye test.

Principal eye conditions that were reported were Dry Eye (12%), Entropion (14.5%) and Ectropion (6.8%); these figures and in the graph represent percentages of the total number of dogs in the survey.



Most of these conditions were managed by daily cleaning and the application of lubricant. Two cases of Entropion required surgery.

Three cases of surgery were reported for upper eyelid lifts, one of these was for a puppy.

Other conditions that were reported were:

Cataracts	x 4	PRA Affected	x 1
Distichiasis	x 2	PRA Carrier	x 1
Trichiasis	x 1	Conjunctivitis	x 1

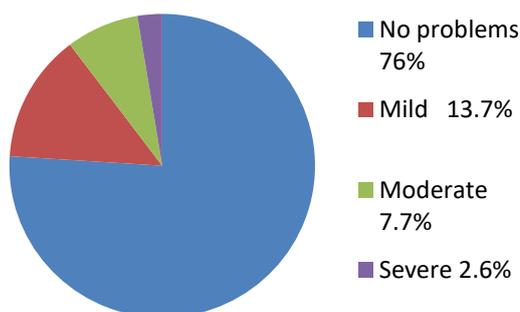
Two age related conditions were also reported both for dogs aged 13 years; 1 case of Endothelial Corneal Dystrophy and 1 case of the cells behind the eye not draining making the lens cloudy. One respondent noted a temporary condition that was probably due to an allergy to tree pollen.

EAR PROBLEMS

There were 90 dogs (76%) reported as not having any ear problems and 28 dogs (24%) reported with ear problems.

3 cases were single occurrences that cleared up with medication.

12 cases reported dirty or waxy ears that responded well to regular cleaning and 1 dog was reported as having ear mites.



6 cases reported recurrent ear infections and in 2 cases one ear is more problematic than the other. 1 case was resolved through change of diet and 1 dog was being referred to tests to establish if a food allergy is responsible. Another dog has severe allergies that cause periodic ear infections. One dog has had numerous ear infections that have progressed to the pseudomonas bug being present. One dog was reported as having a severe left ear infection that led to the ear drum rupturing; the right ear has bacterial otitis media/interna causing labyrinthitis. One dog was suspected of being partially deaf.

MOUTH

The majority of dogs (85.6%) were reported as having normal mouths. Seventeen dogs reported mouth faults as follows:

Overshot	2
Undershot	11
Wry mouth	1
Level bite	2

Both the overshot and 10 of the undershot cases were reported as mild.

WEIGHT

Weights were provided for 54 dogs and 59 bitches. Owners were also asked to evaluate their dogs against a Body Condition Score.

Six of the Clumbers reported on were less than 1 year old and have not been included in the following calculations.

The Clumber Spaniel Breed Standard gives weight limits for Dogs 29.5 -34kgs and Bitches 25 -29.5kgs

The average weight for dogs was 29.46kgs with weights ranging from 18kgs to 38.4kgs.

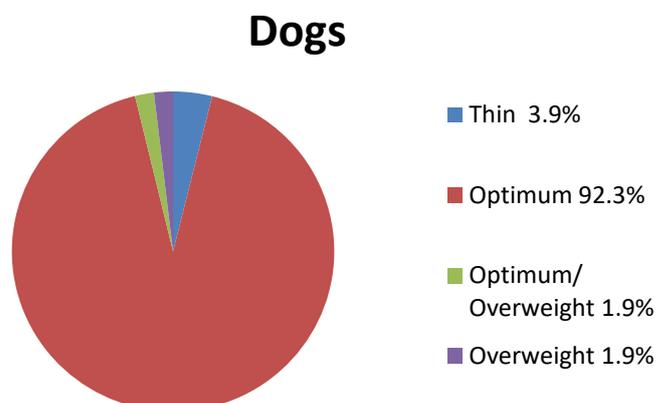
The average weight for bitches was 25.02kgs with weights ranging from 14.35kgs to 38kgs.

The majority of both dogs and bitches were reported as optimum on the Body Condition Score.

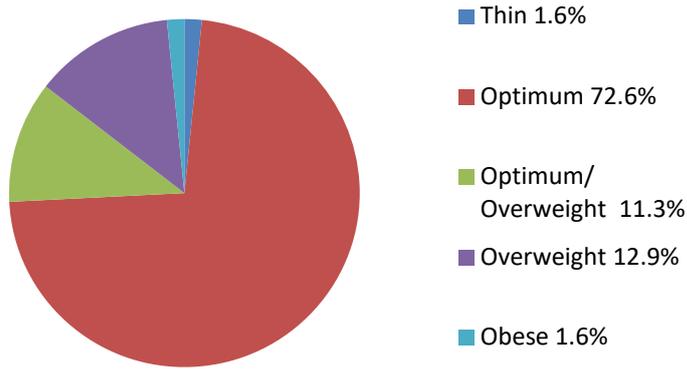
No dogs were reported to be emaciated.

The one thin bitch was being treated with antacids for gastro discomfort.

The one obese bitch was on a specialist veterinary diet.



Bitches



SKELETAL PROBLEMS:

This report details the numbers of cases reported for each sub section however some dogs were affected for more than one condition.

Elbow/Forelimb problems

There were no reported problems for 97 Clumbers (82.2%) with 21 dogs (17.8%) reporting a variety of conditions as detailed below.

In 5 cases of forelimb lameness at a young age it was attributed to Panosteitis or “growing pains”.

2 cases of mild forelimb lameness were due to a known injury.

1 case of mild lameness has no additional information but the dog “walks lower to the ground”.

1 case of mild lameness caused by too much playing with a ball has started at 7 ½ years of age.

2 more cases are reported in dogs of 9- 10 years and are managed with medication and hydro/physio therapies.

1 severe case is reported and is attributed to a “tight left shoulder & cranial thoracic spine & weak thoracic girdle muscles” and is treated with physio, hydrotherapy & chiropractor, onset at 4 years.

There were 5 reported cases of Elbow Dysplasia:

Age Diagnosed	Severity		Associated condition
1 year	Mild	Right front only, surgically treated	Coronoid disease
18 months	Moderate	CT Scan – both elbows	Onset arthritis visible
3 years	Mild	x-rays & MRI scan- both elbows	
5 years	Moderate	CT Scan	Arthritis Osteochondrosis
5 years	Moderate	x-rays , unsuccessful stem cell implant	Arthritis

4 cases of elbow breaks were reported:

1 dog had mild lameness at 4 months; a CT scan at 3 ½ years found bilateral IOHC/ HIF and both elbows were surgically stabilised.

1 dog had severe lameness at 1 year old and then broke an elbow at 18 months. The same dog reports Elbow Dysplasia.

1 dog aged 3 had mild forelimb lameness and then broke an elbow without trauma, diagnosed as HIF. It's second elbow has been checked and has a fissure so will require a second surgery.
1 dog suffered a "traumatic spiral fracture" jumping out of a car boot aged 7 years.

Hips/ Hindlimb problems

There were no reported problems for 106 Clumbers (89.8%) with 12 dogs (10.2%) reporting a variety of conditions as detailed below.

4 cases of hip dysplasia with mild symptoms were reported plus 1 case with moderate symptoms.

1 case of hip dysplasia was diagnosed by x-ray but the dog currently has no lameness.

1 severe case of hip dysplasia required a hip replacement at 4 years of age; the same dog also required surgery for slipping patellas at 6 years of age.

1 reported case of a cyst at the base of the tail causing severe lameness at 3 years of age.

1 reported case of arthritis in hip causing moderate symptoms at 5 years of age.

1 reported case of osteoarthritis in hip causing moderate symptoms at 9 years of age.

1 reported case of a dog with a malformed hip at birth, it has severe symptoms and ongoing osteoarthritis in the right hip. The same dog required cruciate ligament surgery on its left leg at 8 years of age.

1 reported case of mild lameness in a dog at 10 years and managed with medication.

Spinal & Other Joint Problems

There were no reported problems for 104 Clumbers (88%) with 14 dogs (12%) reporting a variety of conditions as detailed below.

Problem	Age at onset	Symptoms	Additional Information
Slipped discs	4 years	Moderate	At time unable to stand or urinate for 2 days, slowly recovered and has had no major issues since.
Slipped discs	4 years	Severe	C2- C3 disc extrusion
Osteoarthritis	5 years	Moderate	
Degenerative Disc Disease, Osteochondrosis Osteoarthritis Slipped discs	5 years 5 years 5 years 6 years	Moderate	Laminectomy & Discectomy @ L7/S1, disc also bulging at L6/L7
IVDD	7 years	Mild	Radiographic suspicion of IVDD, treated with anti inflammatory & 6 of rest plus gradual build up of exercise
Slipped discs	7 years	Severe	3 discs removed and pinned, no further problems
Slipped discs	9 years	Severe	Surgery to remove slipped disc
Degenerative Disc Disease	9 years	None at present	Degenerative lumbosacral stenosis
Osteoarthritis	10 years		Treatment ongoing
Osteoarthritis	10 years		
Spondylosis	10 years		Initially given painkilling injections and now managed with Metacam.
Slipped discs Degenerative Disc Disease Osteoarthritis	Not given	Severe	Surgery for ruptured discs
Osteoarthritis	Not given	Moderate -	Hydrotherapy beneficial

		Severe	
Disc extrusion due to trauma	Not given		Required surgery followed by physiotherapy & rehabilitation for several months

GENERAL DISORDERS

A total of 62 dogs (52.5%) were recorded as not having any general disorders and 56 dogs (47.5%) recorded one or more conditions.

Three cases of Panosteitis were reported in this section of the form but all had already been recorded under Skeletal Problems.

Skin Disorders

There were nineteen reports of skin problems and allergies; this represents 16% of the dogs in this survey.

One case of moderate severity is reported in a dog at 10 months of age in the collar area, it responded to medication.

Skin problems of mild severity were reported in six dogs and further four cases were reported where allergies were believed responsible; one had a definite allergy to grass pollen and for two the problems occurred during the summer months. One more records frequent itchy skin on its back and had suffered a skin infection at the site of surgery.

Food allergies are reported for seven dogs. Three were reported as mild and resolved through change of diet. One case commenced as a puppy and was reported as severe resulting in hot spots, yeasty ears and collitis; this has also been resolved by a change of diet.

One dog is recorded as having mixed allergies that commenced at less than 1 year old and is currently receiving cytopoint and immunotherapy.

Two further cases are reported with multiple allergies confirmed; both are treated with Apoquel and Cytopoint plus dietary restrictions.

Anal Gland Problems

Twenty dogs (17%) were reported to have anal gland problems; 11 were described as mild, 8 were described as moderate and 1 was described as severe. For one mild case it was a one off occurrence, for another the dog had had two separate episodes but for most it was a recurring problem. Some had the glands regularly emptied and some controlled the condition through change of diet or by adding fibre to the diet. The respondent with the dog with a severe condition was considering surgery to remove the glands.

Umbilical Hernia

Seventeen dogs (14.4%) in this survey were reported to have an umbilical hernia; fifteen were described as mild and two as moderate. Two had been surgically repaired and one had self-corrected during growth.

Heart Murmurs

Eight dogs (6.8%) were reported to have a heart murmur; of these six were described as mild and two were described as moderate. Only three dogs had an age of onset given; one was at 8 months, one was at 8 years and one at 10 years was described as Grade 1/1. An additional case was noted as a "possible" heart murmur having been heard by one vet on one occasion but not again since then.

Other heart problems

No other heart problems were recorded.

Cancer / Tumours / Lymphoma

Two cases of cancer were recorded; both in dogs aged 10+ years. One recorded a case of stomach cancer and one recorded a case of bladder cancer. In this case it was noted that the dog also had anaemia and slight enlargement of the lymph nodes as a result of the cancer.

Pyometra

Two cases of Pyometra were recorded. One was in a bitch aged 7 years and one in a bitch aged 10 years, both were spayed.

Single or Retained Testicles

One dog was recorded as having a single retained testicle and was neutered.

Aggressive Behaviour

Six dogs (5%) were reported as having aggressive behaviour and two reported that this behaviour had started as puppies. Two dogs guarded food but in one case it was occasional behaviour. Three dogs showed aggression to other dogs, for one it was towards other entire males. No details were given for the other case.

Other Disorders:

Of the specific issues included under the heading of General Disorders in this survey, there were no reports of **Hypothyroidism, Prostate gland problems or Epilepsy or fits.**

For **Exercise Induced Collapse** one carrier was recorded.

Two cases of **Interdigital Cyst** were recorded. For one dog they are a periodical reoccurrence and for the second dog they occurred at 7 and again at 10 years of age.

Single reports of the following conditions were noted:

Central Diabetes Insipidus	
Pancreatitis	This dog had endured regular bouts of colitis but once diagnosed with pancreatitis and placed on a special diet the colitis ceased. Minor attacks of the pancreatitis are managed with pain killers.
Irritable Bowel Disorder + Gastrointestinal issues	Ongoing and treated with veterinary medications
Continuous Urinary Infections for over 8 months	Bitch under veterinary supervision
Mouth Abscess	Required surgery but the source of the infection was not found
Diarrhoea at less than 1 year old	Had two types of parasite as a puppy