

Clumber Spaniel Club Health & Welfare

Clumber Spaniels are generally a healthy breed though may suffer from conditions that are common to many breeds and these may lead to welfare issues. Good husbandry will help to prevent some of these conditions occurring.

Diet & Fitness

Feed an appropriate diet for the age & fitness level for the dog; most dog food brands offer a range for puppy, junior, adult or senior dogs. Neutered dogs will be prone to weight gain and so the amount fed needs to be adjusted. Ideally you should be able to feel a dog's ribs but they should not be visible and there should be an obvious waistline behind the rib cage. Regular exercise is also required to maintain fitness and mental well being.

As with other breeds being overweight can adversely affect a dog's health; poor diet and insufficient exercise can also lead to problems e.g. anal gland impaction. Skin allergies may be caused by diet or parasitic infection. Club surveys have shown that many Clumber owners report ear problems.

Grooming

A Clumber needs to be groomed at least weekly to keep the coat in good condition and to remove tangles.

Feet need to be trimmed to remove excess coat especially between the toes as knots can develop here and lead to sore feet. Nails need to be trimmed regularly if needed.

Ears must be kept clean; there are many proprietary cleaners available and a good, regular cleaning regime will keep the ears healthy.

Eyes should be monitored and cleaned if necessary.

Health Initiatives & Screening

The Clumber Spaniel Club is keen to promote good health in the breed; this is being helped by health surveys and health screening. Results from both are recorded and shared.

A Breed Health Survey is carried out every 5 years and there are two ongoing surveys; one into breeding & whelping and one into life spans. It also has a survey into Intervertebral Disc Disease being carried out by the Royal Veterinary College.

Health screening is recommended for all Clumber Spaniels and particularly those being bred from. Current health screening recommended by the Clumber Spaniel Club:

KC/BVA hip scoring. This has to be done by a veterinary surgeon. The dog will need to be heavily sedated or put under anaesthetic. X rays will be taken of the hips and forwarded to the BVA who will assess and score them, the lower the score the better. A fee will be charged by the veterinary surgeon for carrying out this procedure as well as a fee by the KC/BVA.

Eye testing is recommended by the Club and is also carried out under a KC/BVA scheme. The Clumber Spaniel Club offers a subsidy for all Clumber Spaniels being eye tested and the current subsidy can be found on the Club's website. An eye testing clinic is held each year in conjunction with the Club Championship Show in October and further details can also be obtained from the Club's website. Completed eye test forms may be forwarded to the Club's Breed Health Coordinator for inclusion on the Club's database by post or email breed-coord@clumberspanielclub.org.uk

Exercise Induced Collapse (EIC) causes affected dogs to have profound exercise intolerance, although not all affected dogs will show symptoms. It is a simple recessive gene trait, and a DNA

test is available. This will determine whether the dog is “affected”, “carrier” or “clear” of the disease. Those found to be “affected” or “carrier” must only be mated with “clear” status dogs.

Pyruvate Dehydrogenase Phosphatase 1 Deficiency (PDP1) is a rare condition in Clumbers. It is a debilitating exercise intolerance condition, with fatal outcome usually before the dog reaches 3 months of age. A simple DNA test will determine whether the dog is “affected”, “carrier” or “clear” of the disease. Those found to be “affected” or “carrier” must only be mated with “clear” status dogs.

Both EIC and PDP1 require a DNA test that is available from Laboklin and the sample for the test is gathered by a simple mouth swab. Members of the Clumber Spaniel Club and Working Clumber Spaniel Society will qualify for a 10% discount, further information on this can be obtained from Carol Page on 01489 589734 or breed-coord@clumberspanielclub.org.uk

You must seek immediate veterinary help if you have any serious concerns about your Clumber Spaniel.

Health & Welfare Sub Committee

In 2009 the Club established a Health & Welfare Sub-Committee with the following objectives:

- To monitor breed health and develop future breed health surveys
- To encourage Clumber Spaniel owners to participate in health surveys and carry out screening for known health conditions in the breed
- To provide a contact point for help and advice with regard to health problems
- To organise appropriate health testing sessions and to provide information on sessions organised by others.
- To fund raise for further research
- To liaise internationally with other Clumber Spaniel breed club health committees

The Sub Committee monitors the health of the Breed through the health surveys and health screening schemes as detailed above. It also carries out the annual review of the Breed Health Plan which has been developed to provide information on the current health status of the Clumber Spaniel and guidance and recommendations on breeding practice to assist with the improvement of both health issues and genetic diversity.

Members of the Health & Welfare Sub Committee have the knowledge to help and assist with any health issues you may wish to raise; details of the current members can be found on the Club web site or is available from the Club Secretary.

There is more information on health issues affecting the Clumber Spaniel, as well as reports on Club surveys and analysis of registrations, on the Club website www.clumberspanielclub.org.uk Members of the Clumber Spaniel Club can benefit from discounts on some health screening and will receive regular updates on breed health concerns, screening and surveys. A membership application form can also be found on the Club’s website www.clumberspanielclub.org.uk