ANNUAL HEALTH REPORT 2017

Registrations

In 2016, 170 puppies were registered from 32 litters; this is a significant drop from 214 in 2015. In addition 1 dog was imported to the UK and 1 was exported.

Breed Health Plan

The Breed Health Plan, developed in 2013, is reviewed and amended annually by the Health & Welfare Sub Committee and endorsed by the Committee. This document provides much information about the current known health of the breed and guidelines for all breeders to consider when planning a litter. The Breed Health Plan is subject to an annual review so that it can be kept up to date.

Surveys

a/ Lifespan Survey

During 2016 six forms were returned; two were for older dogs. One was aged over 13 years and after a short illness where an internal tumour was suspected was given sleep and the other, aged nearly 10 suffered a stroke and collapse of vital organs.
One 5 year old died after a short illness but the cause was unknown.
One 5 year old died of a stroke.
One 6 year old died from lung cancer a few weeks after diagnosis.
One 4 month old was put to sleep suffering from liver shunt.

b/ Breeding Survey

Five forms were returned and 3 reported problems with whelping; three required Caesarean Section with two of these cases reporting uterine inertia.
Three litters' recorded stillborn puppies; of the 16 surviving puppies 1 was recorded as having an umbilical hernia, 3 with crooked tails and 1 with an eye defect. This was a small pupillary membrane remnant in one eye.

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 2016 the BVA issued 43 eye test certificates for individual Clumber Spaniels (a drop from 57 in 2015). The sightings from these forms are not available at the time of writing this report.
No certificates were issued by the AHT or ECVO Eye Schemes.

The Club received copies of 26 of these certificates for the database which can be found on the Club's website.

Eye Testing is recommended for Assured Breeders.

b/ Hip & Elbow Scoring

Hip Scoring is recommended for all breeding stock and in 2016 a total of 50 Clumbers were screened for Hip Dysplasia a 24% drop on 2015 figures; 31 were also screened for Elbow Dysplasia which is the same as in 2015.

Hip Scoring is a requirement for Assured Breeders.

The 5-year Rolling Trends in hip scoring show continuing improvement in hip health. For the 5 years ending in 2016 it can be noted 25.4% of the dogs registered in that period were hip scored and 123 dogs (48.4% of the total scored) had a score of 10 or less. The Median based on 15 years is 12 and over 5 years is 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 2016, 9 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 2016 the results of 208 dogs were known; of these 108 are Clear (51.9%), 85 are Carriers (40.9%) and 15 are affected (7.2%).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.

No further cases were reported in Clumbers in 2016 however monitoring of this condition will continue.

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 2016 the inbreeding coefficient for Clumber Spaniels was 19.1%.

Kennel Club Judges Health Monitoring

The 2016 annual breed summary published by The Kennel Club showed that of the points of concern raised there was a marked increase in weak hindquarters and unsound movement but equally a marked reduction in mouth problems and overweight dogs.