

Clumber Spaniel Health Newsletter January 2021



The aim of the “Society for Clumber Spaniel Health” (Clumber Spaniel Health—CSH) is to provide knowledge, information and advice for all Clumber owners from the start of the journey in owning a Clumber Spaniel so that their dog can have the healthiest and longest life possible.

NEW CSH Website at www.clumberspanielhealth.com

CSH UK—Our Year in Numbers

- **In the past 6 months, our knowledgebase has had 2671 article views.**
- **The most popular article (416 views is 'Buying a Clumber Spaniel puppy' ; followed by**
- **'Swedish Clumber Spaniel cross breeding project' (268 views)**

£735 Raised from Raffle of Hernia Henry

Our lockdown zooms have been well attended with 132 people at our Zoom meetings/webinars

Our History

Clumber Spaniel Health (CSH) was born at Clumberfest 2019 after Lynn Peters gave a very interesting talk on Incomplete Ossification of the Humeral Condyle (IOHC) to a large number of Clumber owners (most of whom were unaware of the issue).

Through discussions with the owners at Clumberfest we become aware that whilst the Breed Club and other societies had health committees, it was felt that they were not very open with what they were doing, what results they had drawn, meeting only a few times a year, meant they were not very agile and contact with the committees was not easy.

As a result we decided at Clumberfest to set up Clumber Spaniel Health to fill that vacuum. Our prime aim would be to supply easily accessed information about all health issues and conditions relating to Clumber Spaniels in a public area that required no payment to access and would be as current and as near current best practice as we could make it.

Our knowledgebase is “**Always Open**” as a group we are free of politics and egos, all Clumber Spaniels are considered equal worldwide and that we would be agile as possible, putting up new information as soon as it became available and reacting to issues as they arise from Clumber owners.

Why do we do it?

We want to help to improve the overall health of the Clumber Spaniel. We are not in competition with other Clumber Clubs and Societies and in fact we have asked the Clumber Spaniel Club to join us in the various projects, but on each occasion they declined. We will continue to offer to work with them (and other societies) on future projects.

We perform surveys as required to determine if there is an issue with Clumber Spaniels and how prevalent it is. This information (anonymised) is then made available to all on the knowledgebase.

We realised that there is no real body of readily accessible information readily available to Clumber owners about health that is current and relevant.

We are also willing to answer questions through Facebook, but we are not experts, just owners, breeders and Clumber lovers who want to give a Clumber Spaniel as longer, healthier and thus hopefully happier life as possible.

Note, all information received is treated in



strictest confidence and in compliance with the GDPR Regulations.

2020 the “Year of the Lockdown”.

CSH are really pleased with what we have achieved in 2020, it may have been a lockdown on several occasions, but we have taken that opportunity and held webinars and circulated questionnaires to help CSH better understand the issues associated with Clumber Spaniels. So in

2020 what has CSH achieved?

A LOT—see the following sections!! Animal Health Trust (AHT)

We started the year with discussions with the AHT about Progressive Retinal Atrophy (PRA). We started a project with them that was looking into a late onset PRA within the breed. Unfortunately, this came to an untimely end as Covid-19 forced the closure of the Animal Health Trust in July, 2020.

We raised (£343.13) through Just Giving for this project as there was a charge of £1500.00 to batch test the DNA and that amount has remained untouched towards future projects.

Surveys

We did a general health survey of Clumber Spaniels to get a general idea of areas that we should focus upon. Owners of 311 Clumber Spaniels participated in this survey and the results are available on our knowledgebase. Information gathered from this survey led to another survey looking into allergies. Owners of 122 Clumber Spaniels that suffered with allergies participated in this survey and the results are available on our knowledgebase.

More recently, we looked into Intervertebral Disc Disease (IVDD) and 211 owners participated in this survey. We know that the Clumber Spaniel is genetically ‘at risk’ of the condition but only around 9% of Clumber Spaniels that participated in our study were affected (19 dogs). We looked at exercise amount and body shape as a puppy and at time of diagnosis of the affected dogs. We have highlighted areas that need to be researched further and so have an ongoing survey to try and gain further information and owners of 31 dogs affected by IVDD have participated to date.

Ongoing and Future Surveys

Looking forward, in addition to the IVDD survey, we are starting a Lifespan survey and Health conditions reporting survey. The average Lifespan of a Clumber Spaniel is reported to be 10 years. We would like to see if this is the case and look into reasons we are

losing our beloved pets. The Health Conditions survey will give us a clearer idea of the illnesses and conditions that are most prevalent in our breed. If we know what they are, we can educate owners on the early symptoms which may help pick up illnesses more quickly.

Zoom Meetings/Webinars

During the second lockdown in the UK, we decided to put on a few informative talks for Clumber Spaniel owners. We had some fabulous speakers including Hannah Capon (Canine Arthritis

Management—CAM), Annika Akerman (Swedish Outcross Project)and breeder of Peter and Jackie Sheppard’s “Beckis” - right),



Lez Graham (Author of the Pet Gundog series) and Nick Thompson (The Holistic Vet). We also had a talk on genetic inheritance and a run through of the IVDD results with Lynn Peters and a bit of a Christmas social!

These meetings have gone down exceeding well and we are keen to continue them for all Clumber Spaniel owners.

Next Planned Zoom Meetings/Webinars

14/01/2021 (18.00) Nick Thompson on vaccinations and immunisations.

18/01/2021 (19.30) Martin Owen on Incomplete Ossification of the Humeral Condyle

E-mail info@clumberspanielhealth.com for a meeting invite

Embark

We have started working with Embark to look into Incomplete Ossification of the Humeral Condyle (IOHC). This is a condition close to our hearts as one of the Board Members dogs was affected in both elbows and has had them both surgically repaired. It is a grossly under

diagnosed condition as elbows often fracture and are repaired without diagnosis. The main symptom is mild, intermittent lameness.

We have also researched unrelated show lines in the UK to add to the Embark UK panel. It was quite a challenge (and shows the small gene pool we have in the Clumber Spaniel breed) to find 10 dogs from show lines that were unrelated for 3 generations but our Secretary, Pam Sheppard, did a great job and we hope the owners of the participating dogs will receive their swabs early in the New Year. This is a great step forwards for us as a breed as then Embark will have a complete reference of UK Clumber Spaniel genes to refer/ compare to when they test our dogs.

Fund raising

Along with the £343 amount raised through Just Giving, Peter Sheppard kindly donated the proceeds of a raffle of one of his infamous ‘Hernia Henries.’ The raffle raised a staggering £735 that currently remains unallocated, ready for use when it is required for research.

Having an amount in the bank put aside for research will ensure that once a valid project arises, we can go forward without worrying about funding at the start.

Committee AGM

We had our first committee meeting in December this year on Zoom. We are a very active group and communicate frequently through other means, but it was great to run through everything together.

Zoom meetings are great as they are so much more convenient for all parties involved. Most people can arrange an hour to meet with other people with a common interest!

“Always Open” (Knowledgebase)

The CSH knowledgebase continues to grow and we now have 67 articles in it. If you would like to contribute any articles, please get in touch. Similarly, if you see we have made any errors within it, please get in touch and we will rectify our mistake. A link to the knowledgebase is at

the rear of this newsletter.

Website

We are delighted that as well as the knowledgebase which is used for reference material, we now have a website where results of surveys, zoom recordings etc., can be found.

We are launching it in connection with this newsletter and it can be found at clumberspanielhealth.org

There is an option to register on the website to receive a notification of updates. We hope that you will register and we will aim to keep the website current and fresh!

“So, who these Clumber Spaniel Health?”

We are not a “member organisation” but we do have a controlling board that guides the direction of CSH. You can be a member of CSH, there is no fee (but donations are always welcome!)

Our Current Board is as follows:

Officers

Chair: Jackie Crawford
Vice Chair: Adrian Peters
Secretary: Pam Sheppard
Treasurer: Vacancy—all offers welcomed!
Research Co-ord: Lynn Peters

Board Members

Lynn Peters
Helen S James
Donna Thompson-Read
Peter Sheppard
Maggie Loughran

Supported/Advised by:

Martin Owen (East of England Veterinary referral centre)

A plea!

All we want is to have is the best for our Clumber Spaniels. Last years there were less than 200 puppies born in the UK, that in itself is worrying. Of more concern is the increase in incidence of IOHC and PRA in our breed, which we need to understand how and why and do our best to find out why it happens and knowing that with good breeding practice maybe we can reduce the occurrence.

Please spread the word about us

For whatever reason some people on Facebook and elsewhere see us as a threat and block our posts!

CSH Contact Details

info@clumberspanielhealth.com - we will endeavour to reply as soon as we can

Clumberfest

Finally, separate to CSH, but a key part of Clumber Spaniel owners getting together and having a relaxed chat is Clumberfest!

Clumberfest

*Whilst we were forced to cancel Clumberfest 2020, we **have dates for 2021** and we can confirm that Clumberfest is planned to run on July 10th & 11th July 2021 with camping from July 5th to July 12th inclusive.*

Peter and Pam hope to see you there!

Clumberfest - <https://clumberfest.org/>



USEFUL LINKS INCLUDING ALL PAST, PRESENT and IN-PROGRESS SURVEYS

Clumber Spaniel Health Website - www.clumberspanielhealth.org

Clumber Spaniel Health Knowledgebase - <https://clumberhealth.helpdocs.io/>

Embark - <https://embarkvet.com/>

Results from Health Survey - <https://tinyurl.com/uhsvysn>

Canine Arthritis Management (CAM) - <https://caninearthritis.co.uk>

Nick Thompson, The Holistic Vet - <https://holisticvet.co.uk>

Lez Graham, The Pet Gundog author - <https://www.thepetgundog.co.uk>

Results from Allergies Survey -
<https://clumberhealth.helpdocs.io/article/g85otfspgr-allergy-survey-2020>

Results from IVDD Survey -
<https://clumberhealth.helpdocs.io/article/q7gzer5zfu-ivdd-survey-sept-2020>

Current IVDD Survey -
<https://clumberhealth.helpdocs.io/article/et8j74wt4a-ivdd-survey>

Current Surveys—please take part if you can!

(Ongoing) Lifespan Survey -
<https://clumberhealth.helpdocs.io/article/ta1jayxta0-lifespan-survey-202>

(Ongoing) To Report Health Conditions -
<https://clumberhealth.helpdocs.io/article/vax8dwmdv8-reporting-illness>

Meet CSH

Over the next few newsletters we'll introduce you to some of the members who are active within CSH

Peter Sheppard



Peter is a founder of Clumberfest (with Pam Sheppard his daughter) and is the maker of Hernia Henries! He has been involved in Clumber Spaniels for over 15 years and with his wife Jackie they have 8 clumber spaniels. Peter Shows, Breeds and Judges Clumber Spaniels. In the past he has been a committee member of the Clumber Spaniel Club and sat on the CSC Health Committee, he has been responsible for health and safety on a Championship Show Committee and chaired a local Canine Society.

He, with Jackie is a firm believer in whenever they breed, and that is only when they plan to keep one from the litter, there should be an improvement in the lines. In past litters to improve the gene pool they have used a Swedish stud, an American Stud and they have in their “pack” on the Swedish outcross dogs that has been used in both the show and working lines in the UK.

He is currently besotted with Tansy (a puppy from a litter born during lock down and in the picture

Adrian Peters



Adrian has worked Clumber Spaniels in the field and his proudest moment was receiving a ‘best hunter’ award for Hettie, his first Clumber Spaniel, in a working test despite her never achieving her true potential and remaining in the novice group!

Hettie’s working career came to an untimely end due to an elbow condition that required surgical intervention. Incomplete Ossification of the Humeral Condyle (IOHC) was not a recognised condition within the breed and his involvement in Clumber Spaniel Health is driven through the need to educate owners on conditions their Clumber Spaniel may have.

Adrian has shown his younger bitch, Thatch, in the British Association for Shooting and Conservation (BASC) Gamekeepers ring at Crufts in 2019 where she was the highest placed Clumber Spaniel bitch in a large AV group (5th). Following a promising season in the field, Thatch went on to have a litter later that year and Adrian and Lynn have since moved to Portugal where the only hunting their 3 Clumber Spaniels do is beach combing!

Lynn Peters



Lynn is a human and animal Osteopath.

Until moving to Portugal this year she and Adrian had a successful Osteopathic Clinic in Cambridge, UK. Lynn is currently training to be a small animal physiotherapist.

Following reporting Incomplete Ossification of the Humeral Condyle (IOHC) to the affiliated breed clubs in the UK, she was informed IOHC was not a recognised condition within the breed. With her Clumber Spaniel, Hettie, having gone through two surgeries to stabilise her elbows, it became apparent very little information was available on conditions that affect the Clumber Spaniel.

Lynn believes education and the sharing of knowledge is the way to go forwards in our breed and she maintains our knowledgebase, to keep information current.