

## Chow Chow Breed Council Health Report for 2022

The after effects of the Covid lock down seem to continue to affect breeders participating in the bronze and silver health schemes. It is appreciated that Veterinary practices were less willing to do routine checks during the lockdown but it was hoped that as things returned to normal, we would see more having basic and recommended health checks carried out.

Less breeders seem to be hip and elbow scoring despite the concern being shown about the higher proportion of chows that were elbow scored were found to have less than ideal elbow scores.

Current registrations are showing an increasing number of NSC colour chows being registered which is very concerning. There have been many discussions over the last 12 months with the KC via the web and emails to try to manage the situation. Small steps are being taken mainly in the management of the way the registration system lists and displays the non-standard colours.

Another issue has been the mis-identification of puppies at registration. We are working with the KC to provide suitable photographs of adult and puppies of each standard colour to assist newer breeders when it comes to registration. To date I have completed the red adult and puppy photos for submission.

Social Media allows people to air their complaints in public, and whilst this is really not the place to make complaints it does allow an insight into issues arising with chow health in general whether registered or not. I am seeing complaints of the usual health issues associated with the chow, entropion, cruciate ligament injuries, hip and elbow dysplasia and skin issues. In addition, I can see the increase in Lilac, brindle and black and tan chows, merle and now mini-chows in rare colours. All very worrying and with little that can be done. Whilst it doesn't bode well for how people might view chows and chow health in the future, we must keep in mind that those that care about the breed more than making money will continue to work towards producing healthy chows and demonstrate by health testing and breeding to the breed standard.

I have seen via social media an increase in chows requiring surgery for elongated soft palate, open nostrils, and to remove excess facial skin. My first impression is that in many cases especially the NSC's the dogs are getting heavier and smaller with overdone heads with short muzzles and small eyes. We may see an increase in the numbers of dogs requiring surgery in the details provided by insurance companies and an increase in premiums.

It has been suggested that we could include BOAS, and Patella testing to the recommended list, or to be part of the 'gold' certificate for the future.

The KC have staged a number of webinars which I have attended including another chance to visit the bloat topic. This was particularly interesting as the speaker acknowledged that it clearly was an issue in chows and was very pleased with the response to the survey so far. Mostly the other seminars have not been relevant to the chow chow.

During 2022 we co-opted Rhys Green and Gillian Claxton to the health sub committee as the existing members are not always able to attend meetings. Both are club representatives to the BC.

I appreciate that we receive several posts/posters requested to be included on the CCBC fb page. I ask can we keep these to Clubs fb pages and other outlets etc., as they clutter up the page and sometimes those BC notices relating to KC health issues and others are being pushed down

Pauline