

Health Update November 2023

Very little to report.

I am seeing a lot of reports on social media of chows requiring hip and/or elbow surgery some at a very young age. Whilst some may be unregistered and unrecorded by the RKC others have been bred by show breeders. It is a little disappointing to see that in some cases the breeders have not had any health checks done on the parents prior to breeding including hip and elbow scoring. There are very few results appearing in the RKC stud book supplement for hips and even less for elbows. One would hope that this is because the scoring is done outside of the UK to get a more rapid response.

Bloat is also very much an issue and sadly there is precious little that can be done in breeding terms. From the seminars I have attended food, exercise and body shape seem to be unreliable indicators. The best way forward at this time would seem to be educating chow owners of symptoms and dangers of bloat and the need to get a dog showing any sign of bloat to the vet as soon as possible.

Lastly, I have been trying over the last few months to upload colour representation photos to the RKC website. I followed the instructions but the way the particular feature works means that I will need good quality photos of the different colours but the puppy and adult head and full body all need to be of the same chow. So please could you all start putting together photos of your chows as a puppy (between 6 and 12 months) and then a good clear head shot face on to the camera as an adult and a good show type side on full head and body pose. These need to have the consent of the owner and the photographer. We need to get this online with the RKC although why they don't want in the nest puppy shots for colour identification is beyond me.