

HEALTH TESTING SCHEMES

A CHOW CHOW BREED COUNCIL PUBLICATION



IMPORTANT LINKS

- The Chow Chow Breed Council web site www.chowchowbreedcouncil.com
- http://chowchowbreedcouncil.co.uk/the_chow_chow_health_scheme.htm
- The Kennel Club www.thekennelclub.org.uk
- The British Veterinary Association <https://www.bva.co.uk/home/>
- Links to the Chow Chow Breed Club web sites http://www.chowchowbreedcouncil.co.uk/links_to_chow_clubs_kc_etc.htm
- On-line Health Reporting form <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScKmlf4LlIVHGtr9Nvzjh0Ey3nQq8VEWu9-zxsu34nsokvw-dg/form/Response>



Join us on Facebook : Chow Chow Breed Council page where news of health testing events, shows and health information can be found

Recommended Health Testing for The Chow Chow
Thinking of buying a Chow Chow Puppy or breeding from your Chow Chow?

The Chow Chow whilst being relatively free from genetic health conditions that can be found in many breeds there are health issues that need to be considered before either buying that adorable puppy or thinking about breeding from your Chow Chow.



The Chow Chow Breed Council recommend a number of health tests that should be carried out before any Chow Chow is bred from. Puppy purchasers are strongly recommended to ask breeders to see the results of the various health checks before making a purchase.

The Chow Chow Health Initiatives

In 2015 The Chow Chow Breed Council introduced the Bronze Health Assessment to enable the collection of general health data relating to any Kennel Club registered Chow Chow over the age of 15 months.

In 2016 an online Health Reporting Form was introduced that will enable the owners of KC registered Chow Chows to report any health issues they encounter in their dogs. See inside for details of both health initiatives

Inside this pamphlet

BVA/KC HIP SCORING SCHEME

BVA/KC ELBOW SCORING SCHEME

BVA/KC EYE TESTING SCHEME

The Chow Chow Breed Council Bronze Health Assessment

The Chow Chow Breed Council on-line Health Reporting Scheme

Useful links

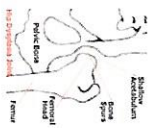
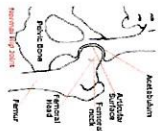
Buying a Puppy or Breeding a litter?

Help us to help you.

Participate in the schemes that help us collate health data

BYA/KC HIP SCORING SCHEME

It is a common but misguided belief that if a dog moves well and is very active and agile it must have good hips. The Kennel Club advice for breeders is that they should only breed from dogs or bitches with scores that fall well below the breed median score (BYA median score for Chow Chows recorded as 9). A useful guide has been provided by the KC and statistics for all breeds can be found on the BYA website (links below). Hip scores between 0 and 106 (53 maximum for each hip) 0-0 representing the smallest degree of hip dysplasia and 106 the maximum. Hip dysplasia develops early in life as the puppy grows quickly, initially it may not affect the dog's ability to function normally, however as the dog ages the effects of the condition are more likely to cause pain and discomfort to the dog especially after exercise. In severe cases the effects can be seen in very young dogs and can have severely debilitating consequences. Hip dysplasia should be considered when planning litters. It is recognised that environmental factors may also affect the severity and development of the condition but the genetic component and must be balanced against other conformational and health issues within the breed and the temperaments of the proposed parents.



https://www.bva.co.uk/uploadedFiles/Content/Canine_Health_Schemes/hips-hip-dysplasia-feb-2014.pdf
https://www.bva.co.uk/uploadedFiles/Content/Canine_Health_Schemes/hip-dysplasia-breed-specific-statistics-jul-15.pdf

BYA/KC ELBOW SCORING SCHEME

The BYA/KC statistics for elbow status in the Chow Chow show that over the period 1999 - 2014 only 45 chows were evaluated and of these less than 50% were found to receive the ideal grading of 0 and 51% fell into the less than ideal grading of 1—3. Elbow Dysplasia is a common cause of lameness, however, not all dogs display lameness, in some cases identifying dogs with ED can be difficult without resulting to ex-rays. There is a strong genetic component to develop ED, as with HD the dogs the dog's environment, nutrition and exercise levels are also factors, only breeding from low scoring dogs reduces the risk of passing on the condition. Until more owners hip and elbow score their Chow Chows the true status of the breed cannot be known, and breeders do not have the information they need to make informed decisions about their planned litters.

"Dogs in which elbow dysplasia caused lameness are only the tip of iceberg"

https://www.bva.co.uk/uploadedFiles/Content/Canine_Health_Schemes/Elbow_Scheme/CHS-elbow-dysplasia-feb-2014.pdf
https://www.bva.co.uk/uploadedFiles/Content/Canine_Health_Schemes/elbow-dysplasia-breed-specific-statistics-jul-15.pdf

BYA/KC EYE TESTING SCHEME

The Chow Chow is not one of the breeds that are listed as schedule A (breeds with known hereditary eye conditions) or Schedule B (breeds that are under investigation). However Entropion is listed as a health concern in the Chow Chow and much work has been done by the Breed Clubs and the Chow Chow Breed Council to help breeders reduce the incidence of entropion. The BYA/KC Eye Test is strongly recommended to establish the true status of the breed, because the Chow Chow is not a schedule A breed the results are not published, data collection relies on owners submitting copies of the results to the health officer. In addition to assessing the health status of the eye, other underlying health issues may also be identified and enable early treatment to be more effective.



THE CHOW CHOW BRONZE HEALTH SCHEME

In 2015 The Chow Chow Breed Council initiated the Bronze Health Assessment basic veterinary health check to assess the overall health of chows over the age 15 months. Owners are asked to submit a copy of the results to the Health Officer to enable the collection of valuable data and to monitor any changes to the health of the breed. The assessment is mainly a visual check of the dog and using a stethoscope to check lungs and heart. The dog will be checked for skin problems and any signs of hock instability and/or lameness as well as an assessment of the dog's ability to breath properly. See the Chow Chow Breed Council website, the URL for the health section is given below

Since the scheme began in 2015 a total of 84 dogs have been assessed. The Bronze Health Scheme Assessment is now recommended for ALL breeders before mating takes place. It is also advised that puppy purchasers request to a copy of the certificate of the parents BEFORE committing to the purchase. Assessments may be carried out by the owners own vet during a routine health check (may charge a small fee).

The North Eastern Chow Chow Club have organised a veterinary to be presented their Championship Show for the purpose of health testing. Most General Championship Shows have veterinary surgeons on site who may be willing to assess dog for a small fee. To request a form please contact the Health Officer (details overleaf) the results may be scanned and emailed or copied and posted to the Health Officer

http://www.thekennelclub.org.uk/media/341575/breed_watch_booklet.pdf
Health Officer email p.lock125@btinternet.com

CHOW CHOW ONLINE HEALTH REPORT FORM

The Chow Chow Breed Council are constantly monitoring the health and welfare of the breed but need to be kept informed of any health issues that are diagnosed in your Chow Chows.

Where conditions are found to be occurring more frequently the Breed Council will investigate and formulate a plan of action to help breeders avoid producing puppies with the problem in future.

To understand better the true picture of health issues in the breed the Breed Council needs owners to tell them if they have experienced health issues with their Chows. The on-line health reporting form does not require that information relating to owners details or dog details be given, however, any identifying information will be treated in the strictest confidence

To report a health issue please copy the link below and follow the instructions on the form
<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScKmlf4Ll1YHG+9Nvzhj0EY3nQ88VEWu9-zxsu34nsokw-dg/formResponse>