



THE WORKING CLUMBER SPANIEL SOCIETY

www.workingclumber.co.uk

Factsheet

BUYING A CLUMBER SPANIEL PUPPY

GET THE FACTS



Clumber Spaniels are a rare and vulnerable breed with only around 200 puppies born each year.

Breeding strategies need to be thoughtful and well informed. There is a responsibility to act on facts rather than personal opinion.

The Working Clumber Spaniel Society is grateful for the ongoing guidance and support from both the Kennel Club and The Animal Health Trust who study and understand the breeding strategies appropriate to the breed and its small gene pool.

DEAL WITH A RESPONSIBLE BREEDER

If the breeder is a member of either THE WORKING CLUMBER SPANIEL SOCIETY (WCSS) or THE CLUMBER SPANIEL CLUB (CSC) then you will be assured that they have been informed of all the latest health issues and should be breeding accordingly. We advise you to deal with breeders who take the care to be members at least one of these two recognised bodies.

FINDING THE RIGHT WORKING CLUMBER SPANIEL PUP

Clumber spaniels are very rare with the annual birth rate in the UK hovering around the 200 a year mark, of which roughly only half are from working lines, so many breeders have waiting lists. Occasionally we have pups for sale on the WCSS website but increasingly many are already spoken for before they are born, so you may well have to wait a while to find your pup. Be prepared to travel and be patient for the right pup for you.

Clumber spaniels are rare be prepared to travel, meet the breeders, and wait to find the right pup for you.

No-one can guarantee a fully healthy pup but by following our guidance you can avoid a lot of the risk.



Contact the breeders advertising on the WCSS website, or the stud dog owners on the stud dog page for advance warning of an impending litter. If you want a working bred Clumber join the WCSS, come to some events and meet the dogs, owners and breeders, that's a good way to identify which lines you like. Be prepared to discuss the reasons you want a working Clumber pup and for the breeder to ask you as many questions as you ask them. We all want the best possible homes for our pups. Many breeders will ask to meet you before agreeing to let you adopt one of their pups. After that you may have to wait for some time for the right litter to be born and the right pup to be available. Don't be concerned about being on more than one puppy list, just keep everyone informed if you find a pup and want to come off a list.

UNDERSTAND AND CHECK THE HEALTH ISSUES

Read our other fact sheets regarding the health of the breed (EIC, Hips, Genetic diversity etc) so you are fully informed when talking to breeders.

Health records of the parents and their parents are readily available online on the Kennel Club website as long as they have been recorded there, which most breeders will ensure they are.

All pups advertised on the WCSS website are from health checked parents, and their health status is included in the advert. If you find a litter advertised elsewhere please, please make sure to check that all the relevant health tests have been done and most importantly ask to see the results. Occasionally we spot adverts for litters which claim to be from health tested parents but aren't. Ask to see the eye test certificate, the letter with the hip and elbow scores of the parents from the BVA, and the EIC test certificate from Laboklin. Don't just rely on the wording in adverts to be correct but check for yourself that all health tests have been done and that the results are satisfactory. As Clumbers are rare there are unfortunately some unscrupulous breeders out to make money with no regard for the welfare of the pups.

Whilst no-one can give a cast iron guarantee these checks will give you the best chance of a healthy pup.

DOCKED OR NOT?

Most working bred pups will have had their tails docked in the first few days of life. If you are planning on working your dog then a docked tail is advisable to help prevent any possible tail injuries to the tip which are notoriously difficult to heal and may end in amputation at a later date, a much more serious matter. If you are not going to work your dog then you may be quite happy to have an undocked pup. In any case make sure you ask the breeder if the pups are docked, as this may influence your choice.