



THE WORKING CLUMBER SPANIEL SOCIETY

[www.workingclumber.co.uk](http://www.workingclumber.co.uk)

# Factsheet

## EYES

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.

## EYES IN WORKING LINES

Clumber spaniels have tended to suffer from entropion (where the eyelids turn in, so that lashes and skin can irritate the eye) and ectropion (where the eyelids turn out leaving eye tissue open to the elements and infection). Both these conditions have been bred away from especially in the working lines - as loose eyes are not advisable in a working dog expected to burst through heavy cover, and now many dogs have much improved eye conformation. Occasionally a 'throwback' is encountered, but both conditions can be corrected with surgery. The Clumber Spaniel Breed Standard has been revised in more recent years to "acceptable to have some haw showing but without excess", instead of promoting eyes with haw.

*Improvement of Eyes is a big success story for working lines. Freed of the pursuit of showing haw the working dog now usually exhibits a tight, clean eye fit for the working function*



### SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS OF ENTROPION

As well as the eyelid folding inwards or being inverted, the following symptoms can accompany entropion:

- Eye discharge. This can range from clear to yellow-green in colour, and may have a pus-like consistency.
- Excess tear production. If you notice your dog seems to be ‘crying’ more than usual, it could be a sign that their eyes are being irritated.
- Squinting. An eye affected by entropion will often appear to have a consistent squint.
- Eye tics. A twitching eye may be an early sign of entropion.
- Inflammation. Visible inflammation or sagging around the eye area may be indicative of entropion.

### SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS OF ECTROPION

- Exposed tissue below the eyeball.
- Fur below the eyes stained a brownish colour by tears.
- Redness and other signs of irritation.
- Recurring bacterial conjunctivitis, or pink eye.
- Pawing at the eye.
- Discomfort.

If you notice any issues, you should consult a vet. They will be able to confirm whether your dog has entropion and/or ectropion and recommend the best treatment option.

### INHERITED EYE CONDITIONS

The Clumber spaniel is not on either of the British Veterinary Association’s (BVA) schedules for known inherited eye conditions, however the WCSS still advise that breeders remain vigilant and ensure a BVA/KC/ISDS eye test is completed annually for all dogs that are to be bred from. This eye examination is a means of identifying inherited and non-inherited eye conditions in dogs which aims to reduce or eliminate the incidence of inherited eye disease.