



Working for the Breed

Advice on choosing a puppy

Deal with a responsible breeder

When looking for a responsible breeder it would be advised to check if the breeder is a member of either THE WORKING CLUMBER SPANIEL SOCIETY (WCSS) or THE CLUMBER SPANIEL CLUB (CSC). If they are 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 of at least one of these two recognised bodies.

Finding the Right Working Clumber Spaniel Puppy

Clumber spaniels are very rare with the annual birth rate in the UK hovering around the 200 a year mark. Of these only around 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.

Contact the breeders advertising on the WCSS website as well as the WCSS puppy coordinator via the WCSS website or Facebook page. A good way to find a working bred Clumber spaniel is to join the WCSS, come to some events and meet the dogs, owners and breeders, this is also 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 and many breeders will ask to meet you before agreeing to let you adopt one of their puppies.

Be aware 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 Health Issues

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

Health test results of both the parents and grandparents should be readily available online on the Kennel Club health test results website, but these can also be checked with the breeder. Most breeders should have proof of any results from their dogs, make sure to ask for a copy of these results for both parents. These should include results for EIC, PDP, hip and elbow scores and an up-to-date eye test result. Some breeders may have run further tests and if available should be able to provide a copy of these too.

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. 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 legally docked in the first few days of life. If you are planning on working your dog regularly 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. Make sure when you enquire about a docked puppy that proof of legal docking (docking certificate) can be provided by the breeder. In any case make sure you ask the breeder if the pups are docked, as this may influence your choice.

What should be provided with my Puppy?

When collecting a puppy you should be provided with a comprehensive puppy pack which should contain documentation such as: information on your puppy, what it has been fed, when it was last wormed and flea treated and what vaccinations it has had, The Kennel Club pedigree certificate, puppy contract of sale, copies of the health test results from parents, your legal docking certificate (if the puppy has had its tail docked), microchip documentation, 5 weeks free Kennel Club puppy insurance, if any of the above documents are not available then this should give cause for concern.

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 scientific facts rather than personal opinion.

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