

= Clumber Spaniel =

The Clumber Spaniel is a breed of dog of the spaniel type , developed in the United Kingdom . It is the largest of the spaniels , and comes in predominantly white with either lemon or orange markings , but can sometimes be either brown or lemon predominantly . The name of the breed is taken from Clumber Park in Nottinghamshire where the breed was first developed . It is a gundog that specialises in hunting in heavy cover . They are gentle and loyal , and can act aloof with strangers . They have several habits which could be considered disadvantages , including a constant shedding of its coat and snoring .

The history of the breed is uncertain prior to the mid @-@ 19th century with two theories being prevalent . Clumber Spaniels have been kept and bred by various British Monarchs , including Prince Albert , King Edward VII and King George V. They were introduced into Canada in 1844 , and in 1884 became one of the first ten breeds recognised by the American Kennel Club . The breed can suffer from a variety of breed @-@ specific ailments varying in severity from temporary lameness due to bone growth whilst young to hip dysplasia or spinal disc herniation .

= = Description = =

= = = Appearance = = =

The Clumber Spaniel is the largest of the spaniels , and is long and heavy @-@ bodied , standing only 17 to 20 inches (43 to 51 cm) in height but weighing from 55 to 85 pounds (25 to 39 kg) . It is similar in shape to the smaller Sussex Spaniel . The Clumber has a heavy bone structure , has a massive ' melting ' head with a mournful and sleepy expression , a square nose and muzzle , and large vine @-@ leaf shaped ears . Freckles on the muzzle and front legs are common . Its coat is dense , weather @-@ resistant , straight , and flat with feathering around the ears , belly and legs . Clumbers are predominantly white in colour with lemon , brown , or orange markings around the eyes , and at the base of the tail .

= = = Temperament = = =

Their temperament is described as gentle , loyal and affectionate , but dignified and aloof with strangers . They can appear to be a sedate breed and enjoy curling up on the couch , eating and sleeping .

Clumber Spaniels shed at a medium pace . Clumbers tend to drool because of their very droopy flews . Clumbers have minds of their own . Puppies are especially curious and playful . The breed has a trophy mentality and the dog has an incessant need to carry something most of the time ; unfortunately this can lead to health issues as they may ingest the items .

The breed has been used to hunt pheasant and partridge , in both small packs and alone . It is well @-@ suited for work in upland hunting in dense cover , and although the Clumber is rather slow in the field compared to other spaniels , it is a quiet worker with a fine nose and good stamina . The broad muzzle of the breed allows it to retrieve a variety of game .

= = Health = =

Because Clumber Spaniels are large boned and fast growing , they can suffer from temporary lameness from between six and twelve months of age , with this lameness subsiding when bone growth is complete . Another common condition that the breed suffers from are impacted anal sacs and the dog may require them to be emptied by a veterinarian . The final common condition that the breed has is heat sensitivity : if Clumber Spaniels are left without shade , they can become uncomfortably hot and dehydrated .

In addition , Clumbers often have difficulties conceiving and giving birth , and may require caesarian

sections . Some dogs may suffer from sensitivity to anaesthesia . The most common severe health conditions in the Clumber Spaniel are entropion / ectropion eye conditions , spinal disc herniation and hip dysplasia . They have a median lifespan of around 10 years .

= = = Entropion / Ectropion = = =

Entropion is the inward rolling of the eyelid , commonly the lower lid . This in turn irritates the cornea of the eye and can cause visual impairment . It is a hereditary disorder seen in both English and American Cocker Spaniels , King Charles Spaniels , English Springer Spaniels plus a variety of non spaniel breeds .

Ectropion is the outward rolling of the eyelid , which abnormally exposes the eye , resulting in irritation . Because of the increased exposure , the dog can develop allergic or bacterial conjunctivitis or keratoconjunctivitis sicca also known as dry @-@ eye syndrome . It is most commonly found in breeds with exaggerated facial features such as the Boxer , Bloodhound , Gordon Setter as well as the English and American Cocker Spaniels , and the English Springer Spaniel .

The treatment for ectropion varies depending on the severity of the condition . The only treatment for entropion is surgical , and may be delayed until the dog reaches adulthood as whilst a puppy the facial structures of the animal are still growing and changing . Dogs who have surgical correction for defects such as entropion or ectropion may not be exhibited in the show ring .

= = = Spinal disc herniation = = =

Spinal disc herniation occurs when the Intervertebral disc bulges or ruptures into the vertebral canal where the spinal cord resides . Once the cord is compressed , the dog experiences symptoms ranging from mild back / neck pain to leg paralysis , loss of sensation , and urinary and fecal incontinence . The most commonly location seen is the mid @-@ back area , but it may occur anywhere along the spine . Cases that do not result in paralysis can be treated medically by confining the animal to restrict movement to a minimum for several weeks , and this can be accompanied by medication for the pain . Surgery can restore sensation to a dog 's legs following paralysis but the success rate depends on how severe the herniation was .

= = = Hip dysplasia = = =

Hip dysplasia is a hereditary condition which occurs in most dog breeds to some extent , according to scores from a 2001 UK Kennel Club scheme , the Clumber Spaniel has the second worst breed mean scores . Furthermore , a survey conducted by the Orthopedic Foundation for Animals found that 45 @. @ 7 % of Clumber Spaniels tested were affected by the condition . Initial signs are usually first noted when the dog is between five and twelve months old , and may include a swaying hindleg gait , hindleg lameness , muscle wastage around the hindquarters , reluctance to and fatigue during exercise , inability to climb stairs or jump up . The dog can appear hunched up with an arched back , and in the very worst cases may wince with pain when moving its hindlegs . Medical treatment can vary from the administration of painkillers to surgical correction depending on the severity of the condition .

= = History = =

The breed 's history is uncertain before the middle of the 19th century . One theory is that it originated in France , stating that the Duc de Noailles at the time of the French Revolution gave his kennel of prized spaniels to the Duke of Newcastle at Clumber Park in Nottinghamshire . The theory goes , that the now extinct Alpine Spaniel was breed with Basset Hounds , and the Pyrenean Mountain Dog also known as the Great Pyrenees . A second theory is that it is descended from the old type of Bleinheim Spaniel , which was later to be incorporated into the King Charles breed of

Spaniel . Originally these dogs were large gundogs , colored lemon and white whereas the modern breed of them is a much smaller lap / toy breed of dog .

What is certain is that the breed took its name from Clumber Park and that the Duke of Newcastle 's gamekeeper , William Mansell , is credited with their development and improvement . Prince Albert , the Prince consort of Queen Victoria , was a fancier and promoter of the breed , as was his son King Edward VII , who bred them at the Sandringham estate in Norfolk . The breed was shown in England from 1859 onward . They are referred to in Queen Victoria 's diary : on October 16 , 1840 , she wrote , " Walked out directly after breakfast before Albert went to shoot . He had his 7 fine Clumber Spaniels with us and we went into the Slopes , with such a funny old Gamekeeper , Walters , in order that I should see how the dogs found out their game . They are such dear , nice dogs . "

Until the mid 19th century the breeding of the Clumber Spaniel was mostly restricted to the nobility . During World War I breeding was stopped entirely causing their numbers to decrease to a record low . In 1925 , King George V re @-@ developed a line of Clumbers in the Royal Kennel and were used in the fields in the Sandringham Estate .

Sh . Ch . Raycroft Socialite , bred by Rae Furness and owned by Ralph Dunne of County Cavan , Ireland , won the coveted honor of Best In Show at the 1991 Crufts Centenary Show .

The Clumber Spaniel is currently recognised as a Vulnerable Native Breed by the UK Kennel Club , which means it is a breed which fewer than 300 new registrations each year . Other spaniels recognised as such are the Field Spaniel , Irish Water Spaniel and Sussex Spaniel .

= = = Clumber Spaniels in North America = = =

While the breed was not shown widely in the United States prior to the late 1960s , in 1844 , Lieutenant Venables , an officer of the British regiment stationed in Halifax , Nova Scotia , introduced the Clumber Spaniel to North America . The first Clumber Spaniel listed in the AKC registry , recorded for the date of 1878 was Bustler , an orange and white dog owned by Benjamin Smith of Nova Scotia . The Clumber Spaniel became one of the first ten breeds recognised by the American Kennel Club in 1884 .

The first Clumber Spaniel was entered in the Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show in 1878 . Champion Clussexx Country Sunrise (" Brady ") , bred by Doug Johnson and owned by Richard and Judith Zaleski of Florida , became the only Clumber to win Best in Show there in 1996 .