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HEALTH TESTING

A CSCA HEALTH COMMITTEE INVESTIGATION

DOUG JOHNSON, SHANNON VAN NORMAN, MAUREEN LELAND

AGENDA



THE GOAL



THE SURVEY



THE RESULTS



RECOMMENDATIONS



Q&A

THE GOAL



The committee was asked to consider adding heart testing to the recommendations



We wanted to determine if heart issues were widespread enough to merit adding the test



Investigate any other testing that might be warranted



End goal: recommendations of tests to add to the current recommendations

CHIC REQUIRED TESTS

- What the club has told the OFA are requirements for CHIC:
 - Hip Dysplasia (OFA or PennHIP)
 - Elbow Dysplasia (OFA)
 - Eye examination by a boarded ACVO Ophthalmologist
 - Pyruvate Dehydrogenase Phosphate 1 (PDP1)
 - DNA based PDP test results from an approved lab

Refer to: <https://www.ofa.org/recommended-tests?breed=CLS>

CLUB RECOMMENDED TESTS

“It is recommended that x-rays for hips and elbows, examination by certified ophthalmologist, and any other pertinent genetic testing be completed on the dam. The bitch owner should request results of these evaluations for the prospective sire. While dogs do not have to pass these tests to be used for breeding, it is the obligation of the breeder to honestly inform those involved.”

<https://clumbers.org/images/documents/2014-guidelines-for-breeders-and-owners.pdf>

At least one of the parents should have passed each test

Every breeding should improve the health of the next generation

THE SURVEY

- Focused on health issues **that can be tested for** but that are **not yet** part of the recommendations
 - Heart, Hearing, Thyroid, patella
 - We did not ask about eyes, hips, etc. because they are already recommended tests
- Designed to be quick to fill out to maximize responses
 - Someone with eight dogs still only needs to fill out the survey once
 - Lesson learned: any future surveys should make onset age a multiselect checkbox group to give more precise data for how many dogs are affected at each age. However, trends were still quite evident.
- Used Google Forms technology and was free!
- Ran from April 5 to April 30, 2021

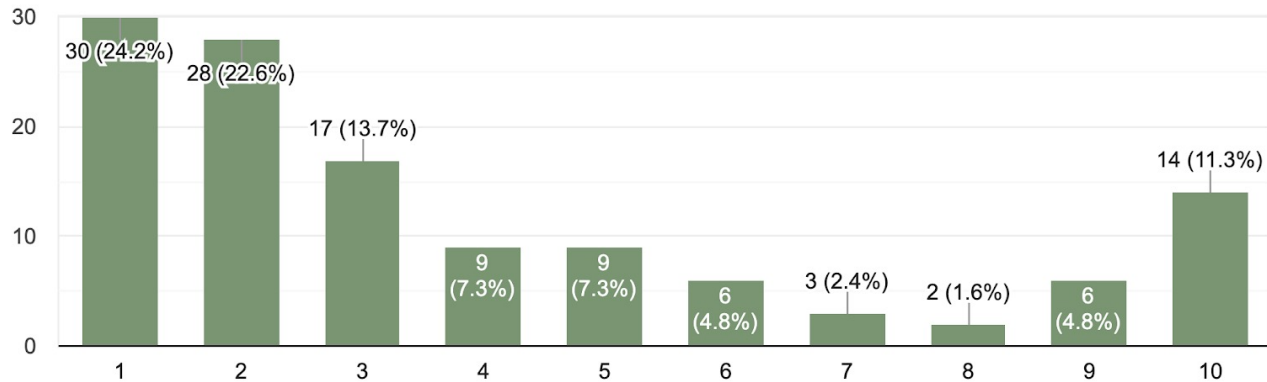
RESULTS

- 124 people responded, providing data for 485 clumbers

- 119 people responded, mostly from North America

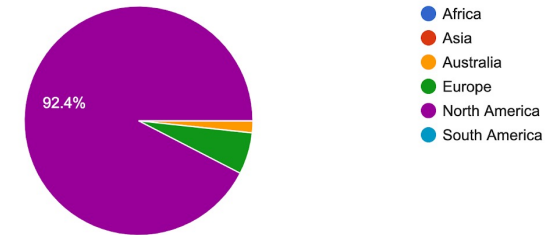
How many clumber spaniels are you responding for?

124 responses



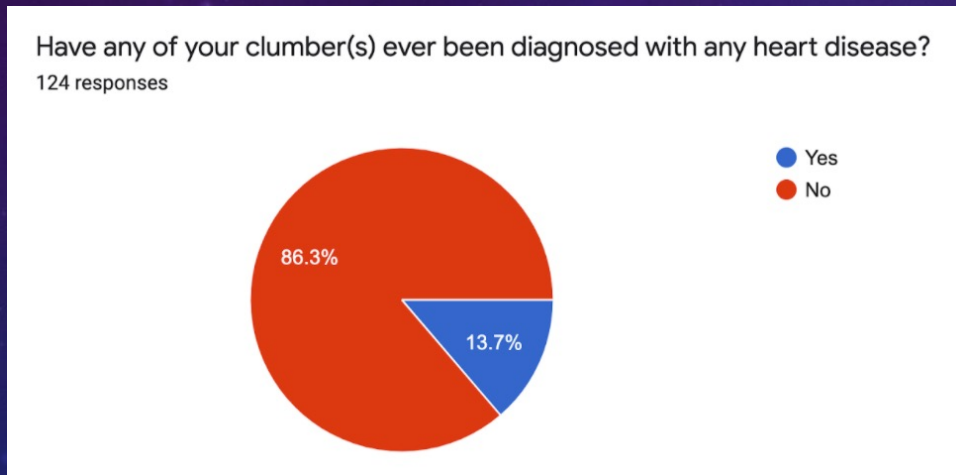
Where do you live?

119 responses

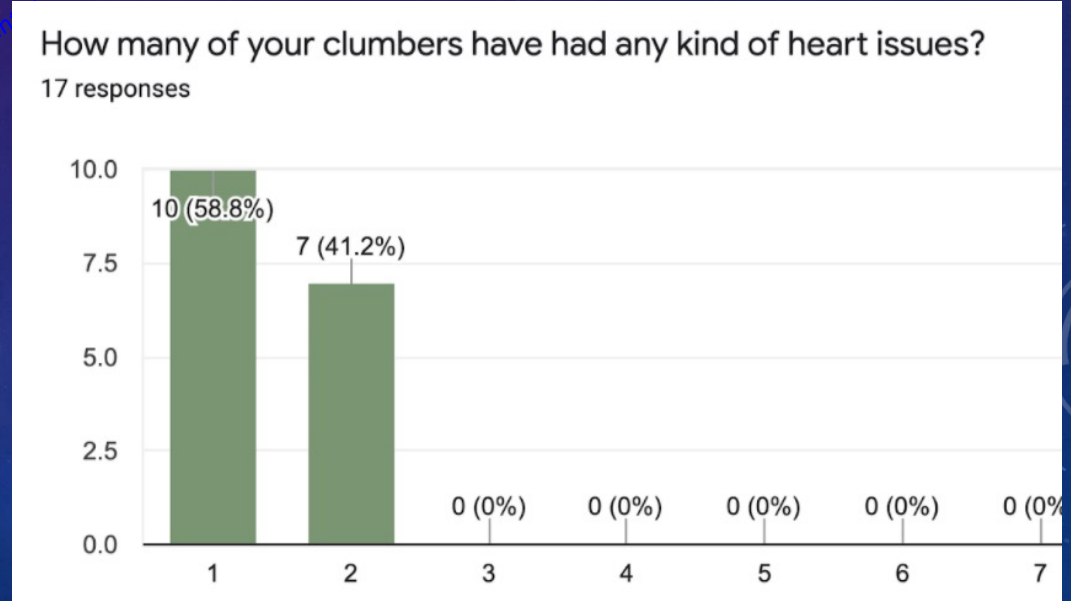


HEART RESULTS

- Everyone responded; 17 of 124 people have had clumbers with heart disease.



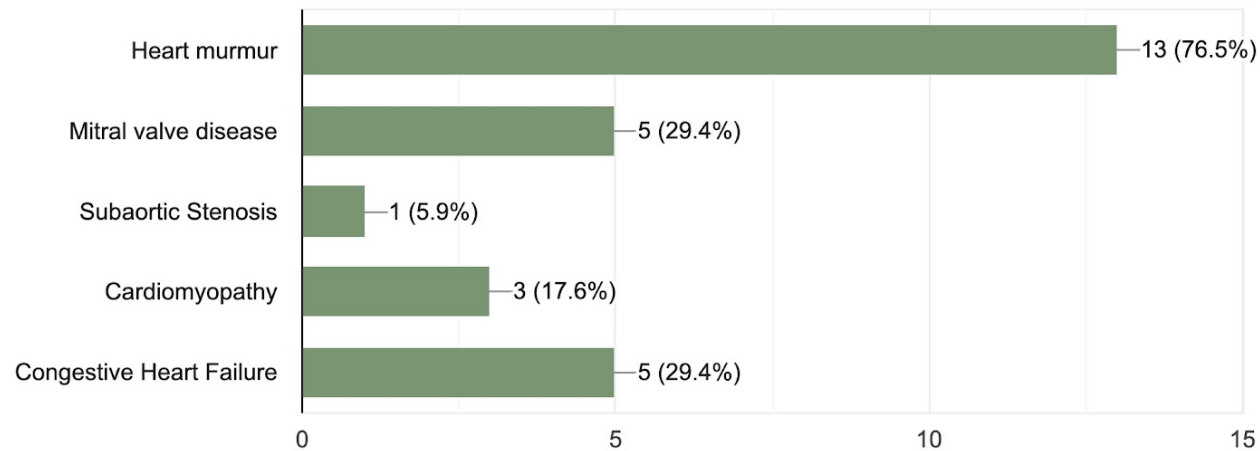
- 24 clumbers of 485 (4.95%) have had heart disease. No one had more than two affected dogs.



WHAT KINDS OF HEART DISEASE HAVE SURFACED?

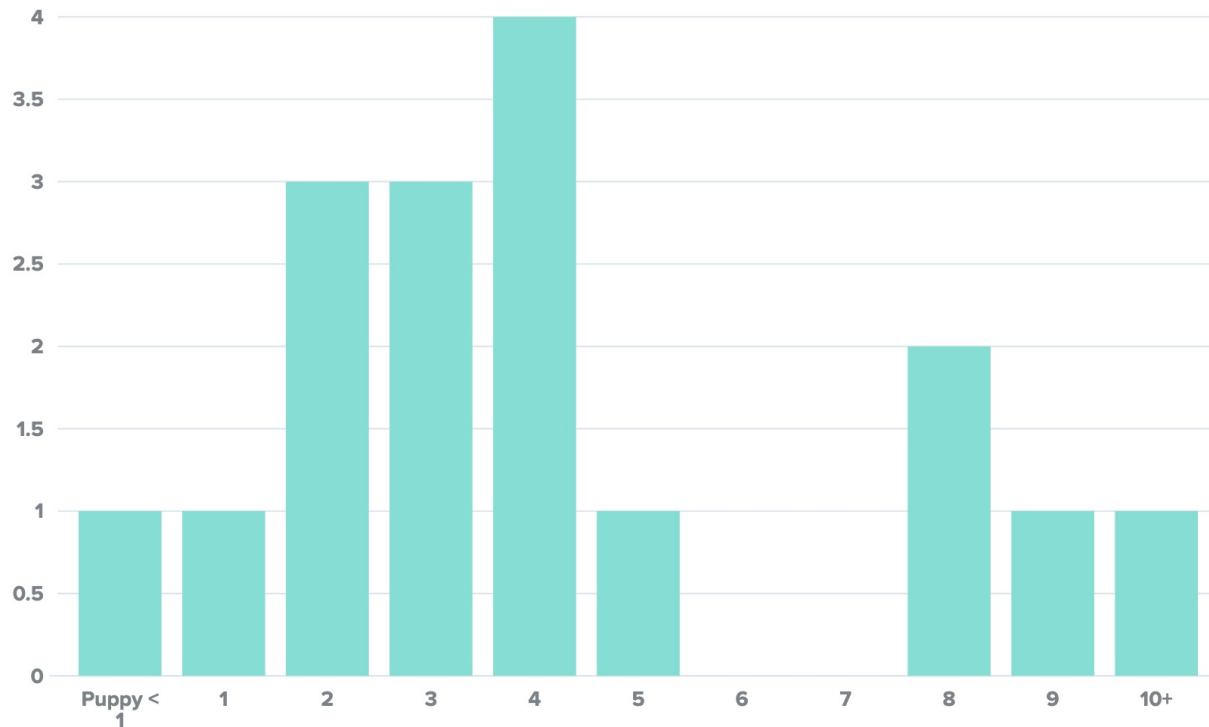
What kind of heart problems have your clumber(s) had? (check all that apply)

17 responses



- Heart murmurs are most frequently found, but other heart diseases also have significant incidence

Earliest Age of Heart Disease

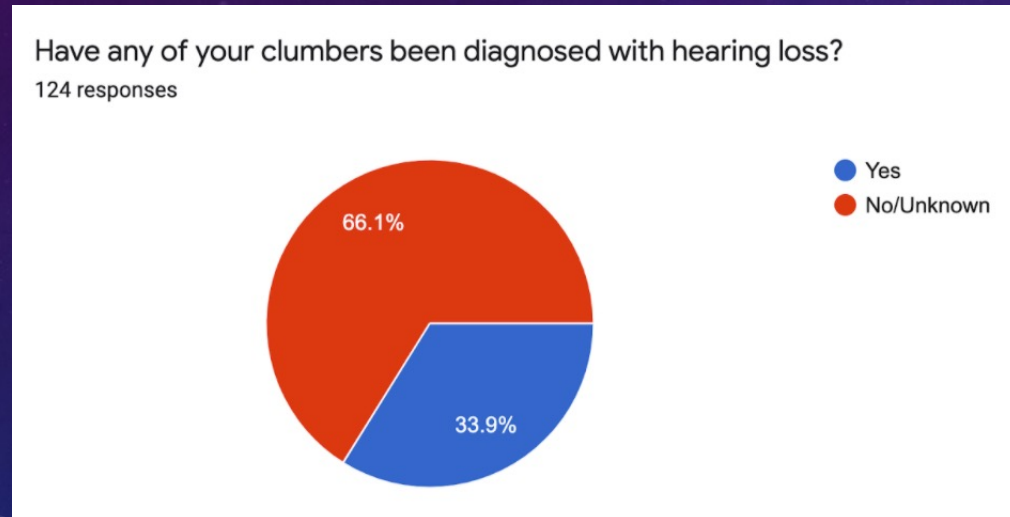


WHEN DOES HEART DISEASE PRESENT?

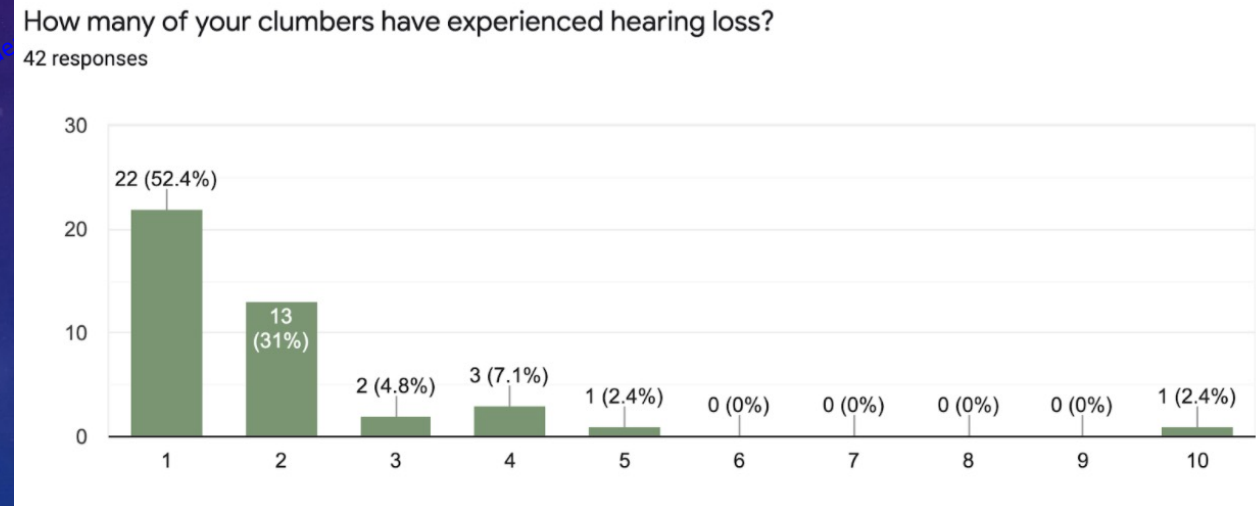
- Of the 17 responders with clumbers with heart disease, many of their **youngest affected dogs** were diagnosed at a young age (5 years or less).
- Because the question asked for youngest – this chart does not represent the number of clumbers overall presenting heart disease at that age

HEARING RESULTS

- Everyone responded; 42 responders had at least one clumber who had experienced hearing loss.

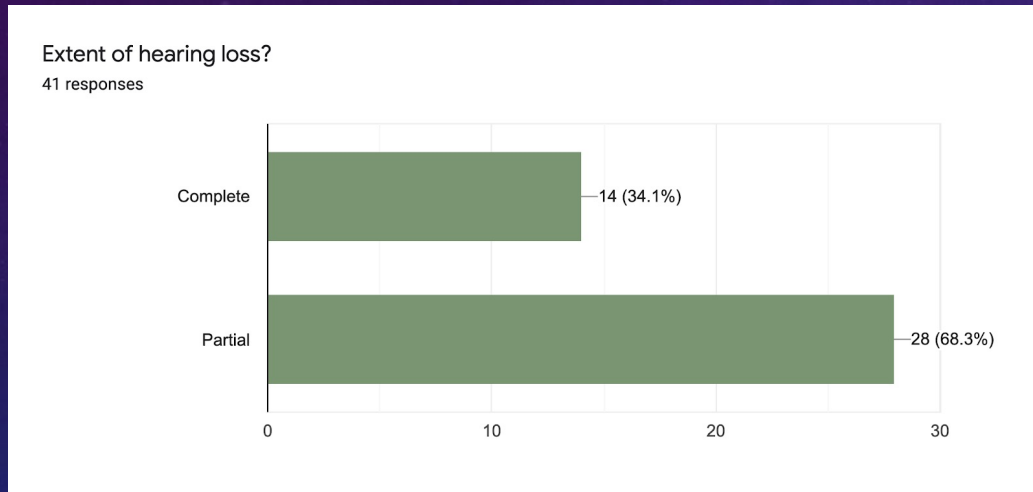


- 81 out of 485 clumbers (16.7%) have experienced at least some degree of hearing loss.

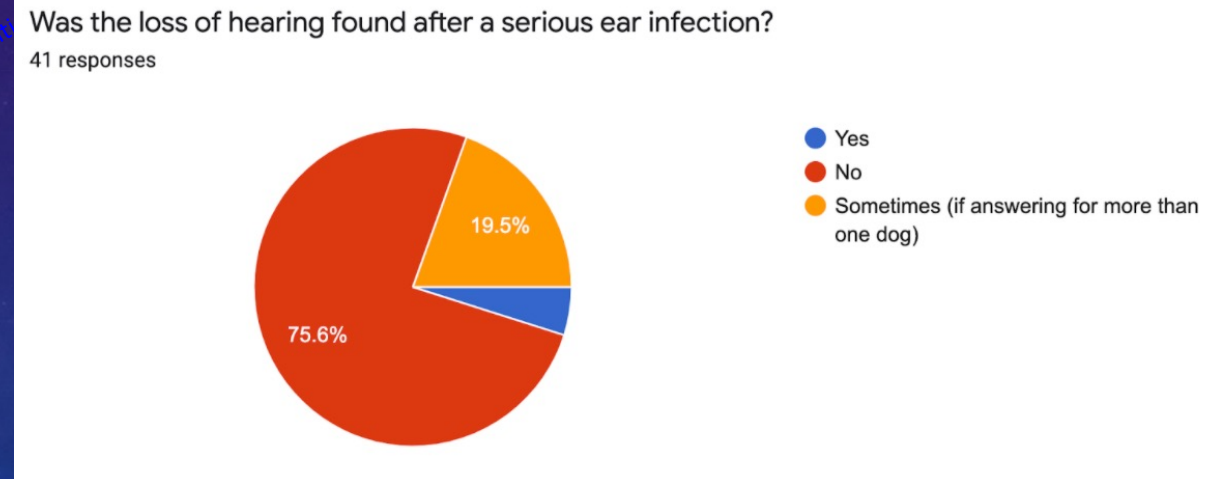


HEARING RESULTS

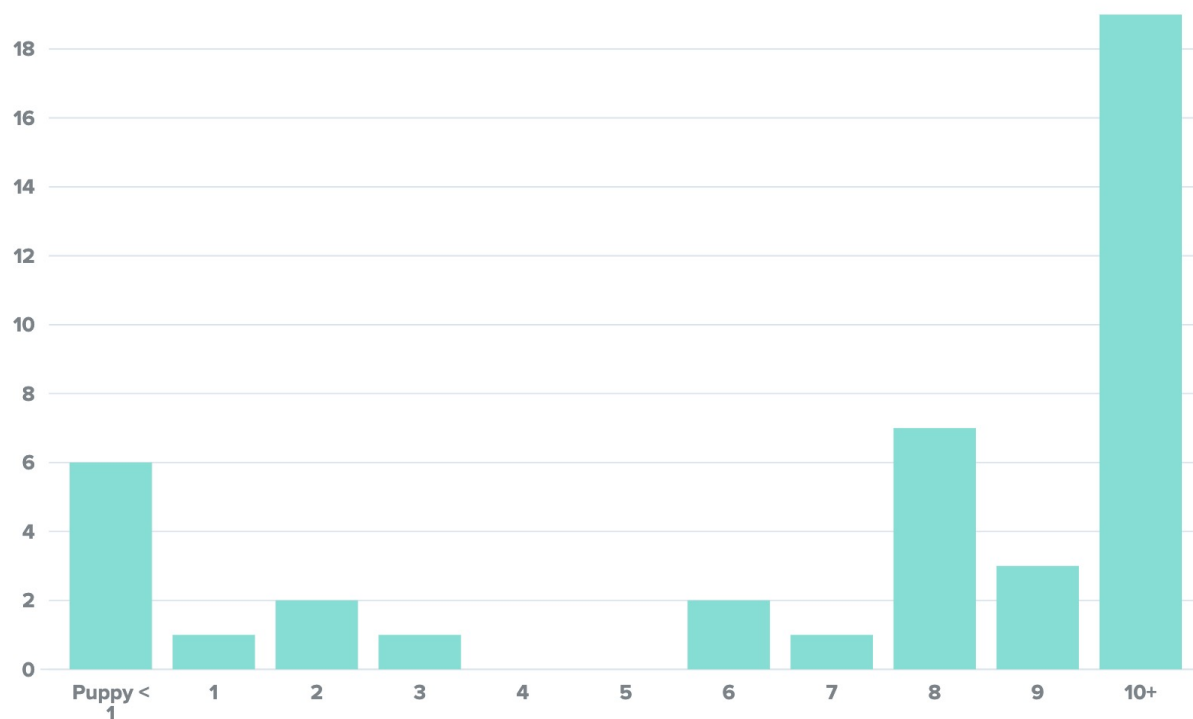
- All but one person who had a dog with hearing loss responded; about a third of hearing loss is complete



- Hearing loss was usually not after a serious ear infection



Hearing Loss Onset Age



ONSET AGE OF HEARING LOSS

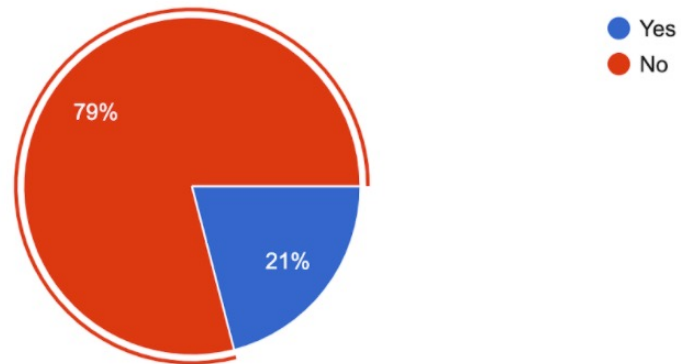
- While there are a lot of clumbers with hearing loss, a good number of them may be age related. This survey asked for the **youngest** age at diagnosis and is not a complete count of clumbers at that age with hearing loss. However, there are still too many clumbers losing hearing at age 3 or earlier.

THYROID RESULTS

- Everyone responded; 26 people (20.97%) have had clumbers with thyroid disease.

Have any of your clumbers ever been diagnosed with a thyroid issue?

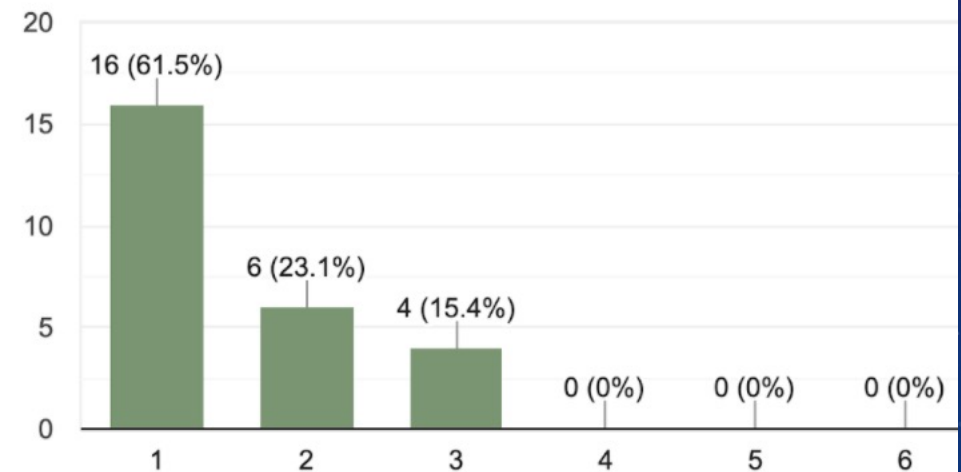
124 responses



- 40 clumbers of 485 (8.25%) have had thyroid problems. (No one had more than 3.)

How many of your clumbers have had thyroid disease?

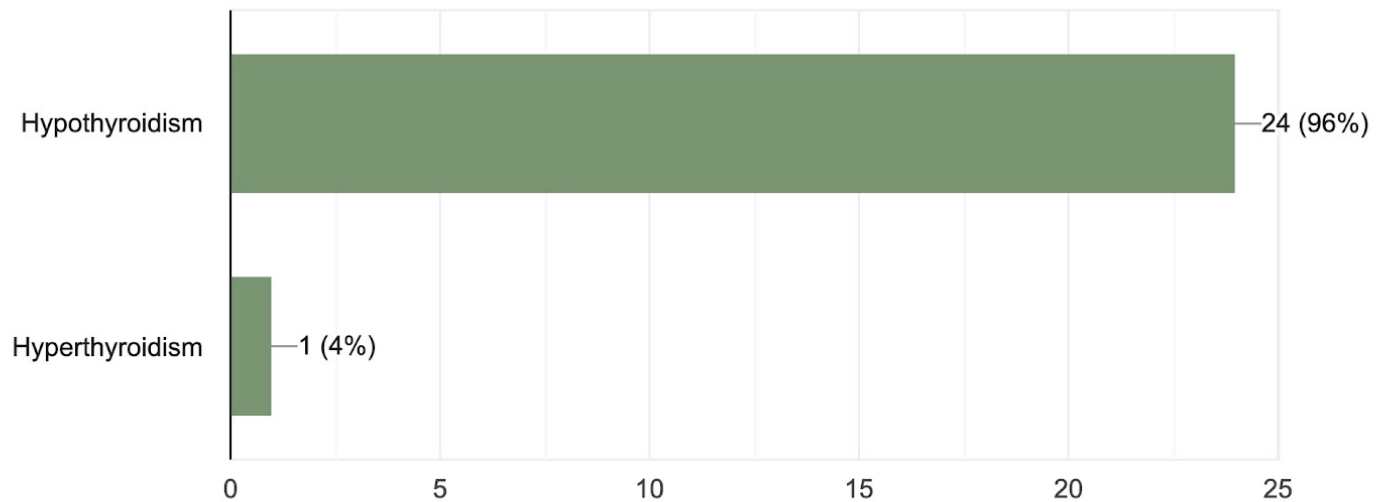
26 responses



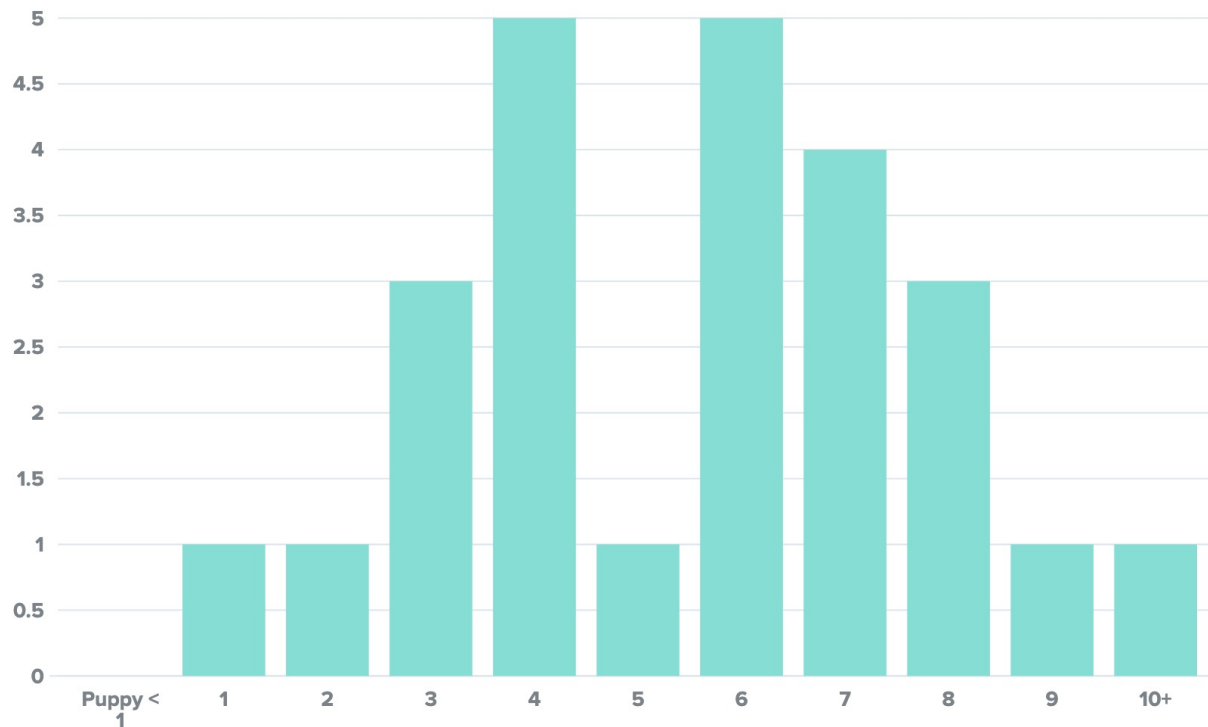
HYPOTHYROIDISM IS MOST COMMON

What kind of thyroid issue?

25 responses



Thyroid Disease Onset Age

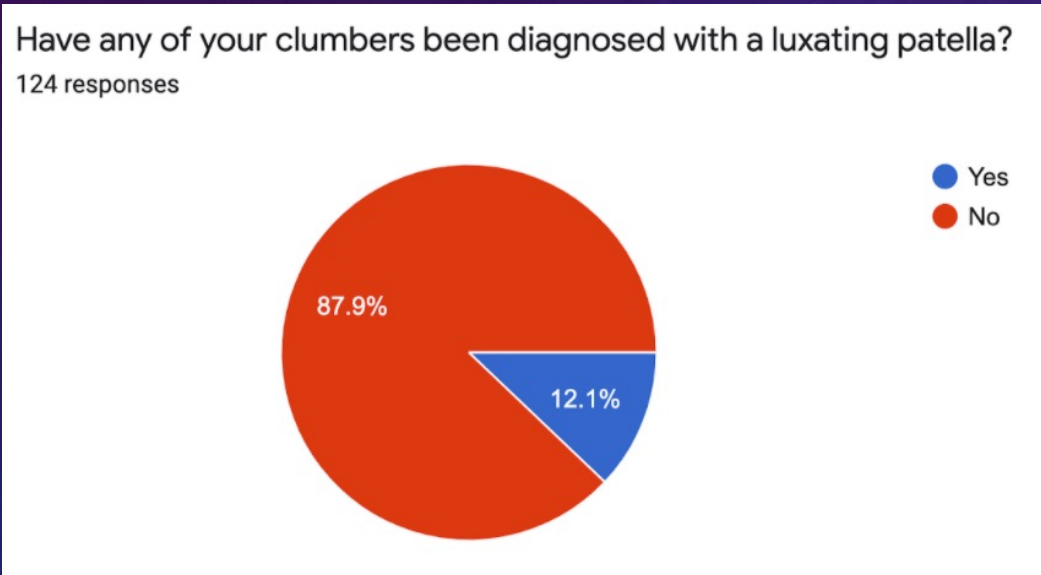


WHEN DOES THYROID DISEASE PRESENT?

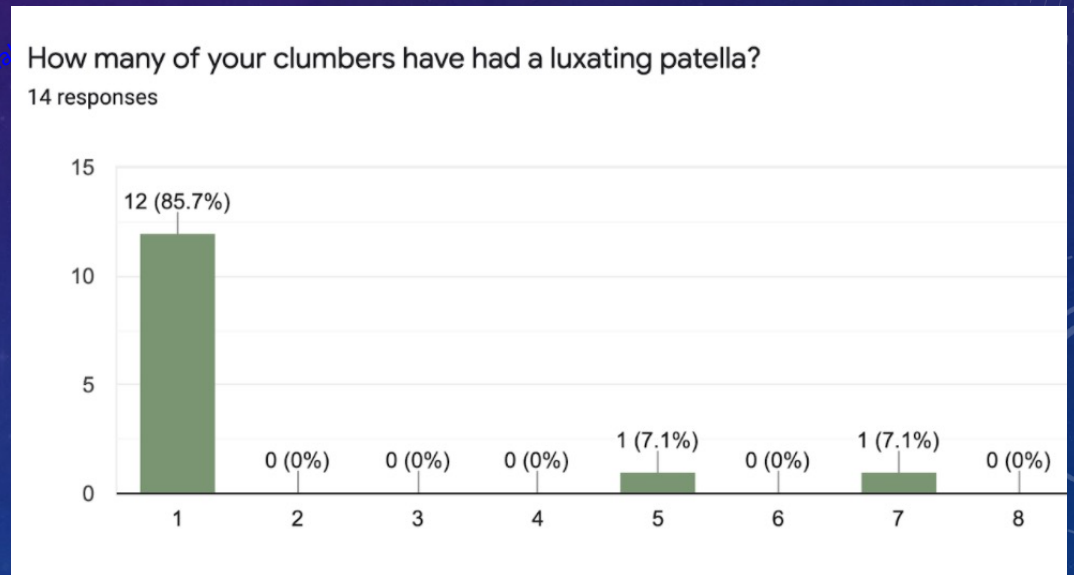
- Thyroid disease appears to be diagnosed most frequently in middle age. Thyroid disease seems common enough to suggest testing, **but** the disease seems to mostly be diagnosed after the age when dogs would be at least initially tested!

LUXATING PATELLA RESULTS

- Everyone responded; 15 people have had clumbers with a luxating patella.



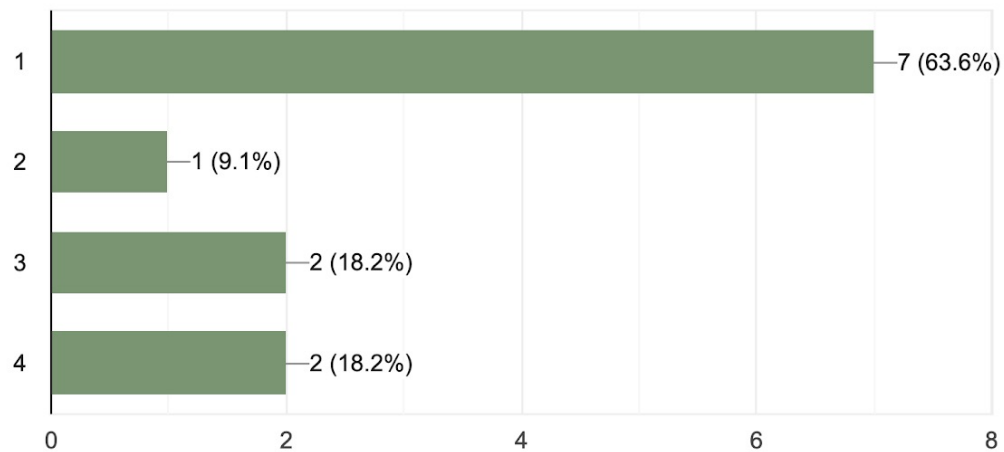
- 24 clumbers of 485 (4.95%) have had a luxating patella.



LUXATING PATELLA SEVERITY

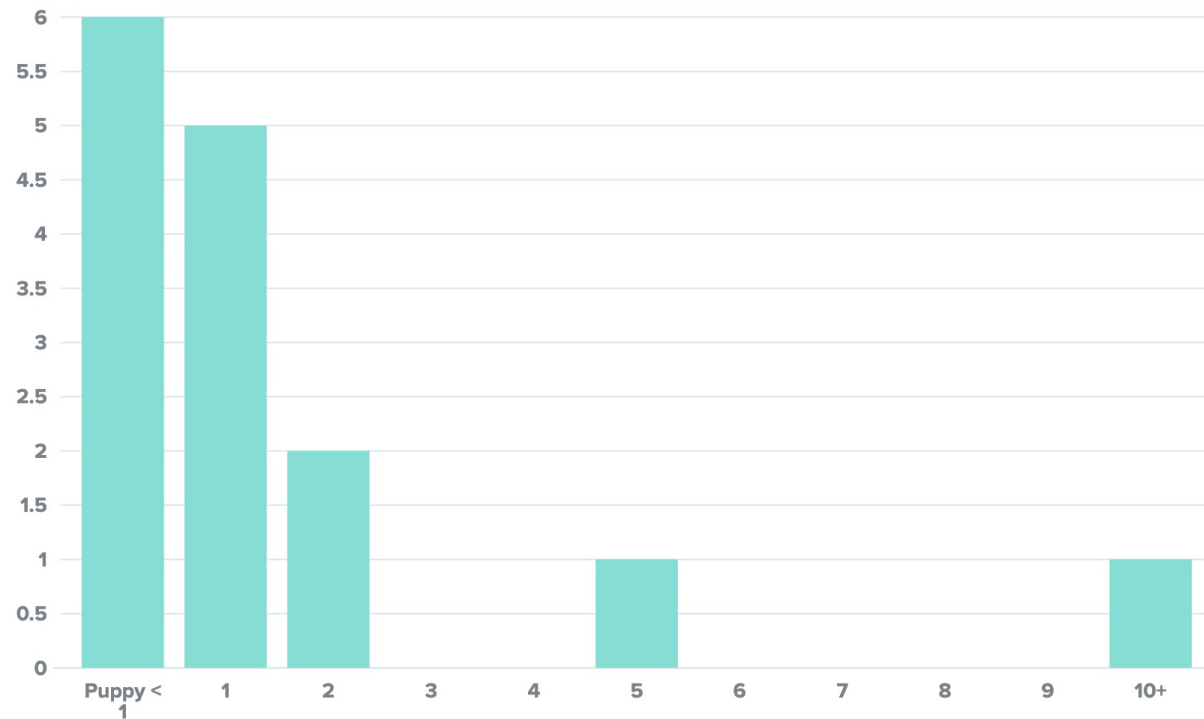
If known, what grade(s) of luxation?

11 responses



- Most have very low severity luxating patellas - a few are more severe.

Luxating Patella Onset Age



LUXATING PATELLA ONSET AGE






- Appears to generally affect younger dogs. One puppy outgrew it.

COMMON THREADS IN ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

- Allergies
- Skin conditions
- Disc issues/IVDD
- Cancer
- Eye problems (dry eye, distichiasis, entropion, etc.)
- Support for heart & hearing tests

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RECOMMENDATIONS

TEST	RECOMMENDATION	WHY?
HEART		There are enough clumbers affected at a young age that we need to learn more.
HEARING		There are enough clumbers affected at a young age that we need to learn more.
THYROID		There are many clumbers affected, but the disease does not typically present until after the age breeding tests are done. Recommend breeders consider grandparent thyroid disease.
PATELLAS		Surfaces at a young age, but mild in severity, and unclear whether it is just a large breed growth pattern.
EMBARK		Covers PDP1, EIC, and many other conditions.



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QUESTIONS?

THANK YOU!!
