

The purpose of this survey is to gain a better perspective of the incidence of issues relating to **cruciate ligaments**, particularly in view of recent changes made to the interim Chow Chow Breed Standard that relate to hind leg construction and its unique stilted gait.

Insurance company data suggests that one of the most common conditions claimed for by Chow owners is for treatment for Cruciate Ligament disorders. The recent survey carried out by the Chow Chow Breed Council suggests that a large percentage of Chow owners have at some time or another experienced issues relating to cruciate ligaments and that the condition is viewed as one of the more serious problems to affect the Chow Chow. However it must be noted that the majority of respondents felt that the problem did not occur frequently.

A study carried out on Danish Chows Chows found no evidence to suggest that the high incidence of cruciate ligament injury was due to lack of angulation and cited many other likely causes. However, the study did indicate that the Chow Chow had the highest incidence of injury compared to other breeds. (*Torngren, M. B and Arnbjerg, J. (2003) Ligament problem in Chow Chow – One step forward, one back*)

What is not known at present is: -

- The scale of the problem, what is the current proportion of Chow Chows with cruciate ligament disorders?
- Factors such as gender, weight, age that may predispose an animal to injury
- Hereditary elements?

To give some indication of change over time the questionnaire looks at two 5 year time ranges determined by the Chows date of birth: (a) date of birth between January 2004 to December 2008 and (b) date of birth between January 1999 to December 2003. Each chow must only be included in ONE time range, please make sure that your responses are included in the correct time range. Only Chows that were living with you during these time periods are to be included in the survey. A third period looks at Chows whose date of birth occurs prior to 1999.

It is appreciated that it may not be possible to answer all the questions especially for Chows born prior to January 1999 as details may not be available, please either give approximations where possible or leave section blank.

**PLEASE NOTE** where the term 'DOG' is used it refers to both male and female chows

**Part 1** of the survey relates to **ALL Chow Chows** (affected or unaffected) that were living with you during the two time periods and will form the basis for comparison. Please give **total number** of Chows that lived with you during the two time periods.

**Part 2** of the survey relates only to **AFFECTED** chow chows during the two time periods. Part 2 asks for information about Chows aged 5 years or less.

**Part 3** ask for information about Chows aged over 5years to 10 years of age

**Part 4** is for Chows whose date of birth falls before January 1999

The survey is further divided into five sections

**Section 1** – will tell us about individual Chows that have had cruciate ligament disorders. Here we look at gender status, age, weight, height (it is appreciated that it may not be possible to give exact details please put a cross in the box you consider most appropriate).

**Section 2** – investigates the nature of the disorder, whether it affected one or both legs, if both legs did it affect them at the same time or at different times? How severe was the problem e.g., did it require surgery or cage rest and gentle exercise to treat the injury.

**Section 3** – investigates how the injury occurred, did it follow an incident during exercise or accident or did you simply become aware that the Chow had some discomfort in one or both of its back legs for instance.

**Section 4** – looks at levels of exercise the Chow received prior to the onset of the condition and its activity type.

**Section 5** – investigates the possibility of a familial predisposition (occurring within families) particularly in the case of joint degeneration, your responses can include Chows that were not living with you during the time periods. In this section we are not looking for numbers or details of other Chows, and are aware that hind leg lameness may be due to any number of disorders including the possibility of genetic inheritance.

**Part 1**

**Numbers of Chows**

1. Please insert **actual number** of chows living with you in the time period indicated below

ALL CHOWS by date of birth (DOB)	intact females	entire males	Neutered M or F
DOB between Jan 2004 to Dec 2008			
DOB between Jan 1999 – Dec 2003			
Chows born prior to Jan 1999			

2. Please insert numbers of chows living with you in the time period **who have had cruciate ligament injuries**

ALL CHOWS by date of birth (DOB)	intact females	entire males	NEUTERED M or F
DOB between Jan 2004 to Dec 2008			
DOB between Jan 1999 – Dec 2003			
Chows born prior to Jan 1999			

**Part 2**

CHOWS TO BE INCLUDED IN THIS SECTION FOR THE TIME PERIOD Date of Birth **JANUARY 2004 TO DECEMBER 2008** e.g., Chows aged five (5) years or less

**AFFECTED CHOWS ONLY**

**Section 1 - about the Chow**

Mark with cross in appropriate box	dog 1	dog 2	dog 3	dog 4	dog 5	dog 6
entire male						
intact female						
Neutered male or female						

<i>age at time of injury (give in Years)</i>						
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**Accommodation - was the chow kept in the house or kennelled**

Mark with cross in appropriate box	dog 1	dog 2	dog 3	dog 4	dog 5	dog 6
kept in house						
kept in kennel						
mix of both						

**Mark with cross in appropriate box**

<i>approx weight</i>	dog 1	dog 2	dog 3	dog 4	dog 5	dog 6
less than and up to 50lbs						
51 -55lbs						
56 - 60lbs						
61 - 70lbs						
over 70lbs						

**Mark with cross in appropriate box**

<i>approx height at top of shoulders (withers)</i>	dog 1	dog 2	dog 3	dog 4	dog 5	dog 6
less than 18"						
18" - and up to 19"						
19" - and up to 20"						
20" - and up to 21"						
Over 21"						

**Section 2 - information about the nature of the disorder.**

Was there any known degeneration of either joint prior to the injury?

mark with cross in appropriate box	dog 1	dog 2	dog 3	dog 4	dog 5	dog 6
left leg						
right leg						
both legs						

<b>both legs affected - indicate if:-</b>	dog 1	dog 2	dog 3	dog 4	dog 5	dog 6
a) both at the same time						
b) second leg within 1 month of first injury						
c) second leg some months (or more) following first injury						

<b>please indicate if dog required surgery for the condition (X = yes)</b>	dog 1	dog 2	dog 3	dog 4	dog 5	dog 6
one leg						
both legs						
indicate if condition reoccurred (X = yes)						

**section 3 - how injury occurred**

<b>mark with cross in all applicable boxes</b>	dog 1	dog 2	dog 3	dog 4	dog 5	dog 6
dog twisted suddenly						
foot went down a rabbit hole						
dog jumped off a high surface						
during pregnancy/in season						
just walking along the road						
getting up from resting suddenly						
other *						

\* please give brief details

**section 4 - levels of exercise and activity levels prior to onset of condition**

<b>mark with cross in all applicable boxes</b>	dog 1	dog 2	dog 3	dog 4	dog 5	dog 6
free range exercise in garden or run area (one dog only)						
free range exercise in garden or run area with other Chows						
half an hour per day road walking lead exercise						
one hour per day road walking lead exercise						
road walking lead exercise + free running in public space (park, beach, woods)						

activity type of individual Chows

<b>mark with cross in appropriate box</b>	dog 1	dog 2	dog 3	dog 4	dog 5	dog 6
couch potato (will walk but prefers to sleep)						
moderately active, less time spent sleeping						
highly active, restless, always on the go						

**Relates only to Chows that have had a Cruciate ligament INJURY**

**Section 5 - familial links** – are you aware of any similar occurrence of hind leg

lameness in close family members - please indicate with cross in appropriate box below

mark with cross in all applicable boxes	dog 1	dog 2	dog 3	dog 4	dog 5	dog 6
sire						
dam						
siblings (brothers and sisters)						

**general degeneration of stifle joint e.g., arthritis/stiffness**

mark with cross in all applicable boxes	dog 1	dog 2	dog 3	dog 4	dog 5	dog 6
sire						
dam						
sibling						

**Part 3**

CHOWS TO BE INCLUDED IN THIS SECTION FOR THE TIME PERIOD JANUARY 1999 TO DECEMBER 2003 e.g., Chows aged five (5 – 10yrs) years

**AFFECTED CHOWS ONLY**

**Section 1 - about the Chow**

Mark with cross in appropriate box	dog 1	dog 2	dog 3	dog 4	dog 5	dog 6
entire male						
intact female						
Neutered male or female						

<b><u>age at time of injury (give in Years)</u></b>						
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**Accommodation - was the chow kept in the house or kennelled**

Mark with cross in appropriate box	dog 1	dog 2	dog 3	dog 4	dog 5	dog 6
kept in house						
kept in kennel						
mix of both						

**Mark with cross in appropriate box**

<b><u>approx weight</u></b>	dog 1	dog 2	dog 3	dog 4	dog 5	dog 6
less than and up to 50lbs						
51 -55lbs						
56 - 60lbs						
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over 70lbs						

Mark with cross in appropriate box

<b>approx height at top of shoulders (withers)</b>	dog 1	dog 2	dog 3	dog 4	dog 5	dog 6
less than 18"						
18" - and up to 19"						
19" - and up to 20"						
20" - and up to 21"						
Over 21"						

**Section 2 - information about the nature of the disorder.**

Was there any known degeneration of either joint prior to the injury?

mark with cross in appropriate box

	dog 1	dog 2	dog 3	dog 4	dog 5	dog 6
left leg						
right leg						
both legs						

**both legs affected - indicate if:-**

	dog 1	dog 2	dog 3	dog 4	dog 5	dog 6
a) both at the same time						
b) second leg within 1 month of first injury						
c) second leg some months (or more) following first injury						

**please indicate if dog required surgery for the condition (X = yes)**

	dog 1	dog 2	dog 3	dog 4	dog 5	dog 6
one leg						
both legs						
indicate if condition reoccurred (X = yes)						

**section 3 - how injury occurred**

<b>mark with cross in all applicable boxes</b>	dog 1	dog 2	dog 3	dog 4	dog 5	dog 6
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getting up from resting suddenly						
other *						

\* please give brief details

**section 4 - levels of exercise and activity levels prior to onset of condition**

<b>mark with cross in all applicable boxes</b>	dog 1	dog 2	dog 3	dog 4	dog 5	dog 6
free range exercise in garden or run area (one dog only)						
free range exercise in garden or run area with other Chows						
half an hour per day road walking lead exercise						
one hour per day road walking lead exercise						
road walking lead exercise + free running in public space (park, beach, woods)						

activity type of individual Chows

<b>mark with cross in appropriate box</b>	dog 1	dog 2	dog 3	dog 4	dog 5	dog 6
couch potato (will walk but prefers to sleep)						
moderately active, less time spent sleeping						
highly active, restless, always on the go						

**Relates only to Chows that have had a Cruciate ligament INJURY**

**Section 5 - familial links** – are you aware of any similar occurrence of hind leg

lameness in close family members - please indicate with cross in appropriate box below

<b>mark with cross in all applicable boxes</b>	dog 1	dog 2	dog 3	dog 4	dog 5	dog 6
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dam						
siblings (brothers and sisters)						

**general degeneration of stifle joint e.g., arthritis/stiffness**

<b>mark with cross in all applicable boxes</b>	dog 1	dog 2	dog 3	dog 4	dog 5	dog 6
sire						
dam						
sibling						

**Part 4**

Relates to Chows born prior to January 1999 (e.g., aged 11 years or more)

**AFFECTED CHOWS ONLY**

**Section 1 - about the Chow**

<b>Mark with cross in appropriate box</b>	dog 1	dog 2	dog 3	dog 4	dog 5	dog 6
entire male						
intact female						
Neutered male or female						

<b>age at time of injury (give in Years)</b>						
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**Accommodation - was the chow kept in the house or kennelled**

Mark with cross in appropriate box	dog 1	dog 2	dog 3	dog 4	dog 5	dog 6
kept in house						
kept in kennel						
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**Mark with cross in appropriate box**

<b>approx weight</b>	dog 1	dog 2	dog 3	dog 4	dog 5	dog 6
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20" - and up to 21"						
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**Section 2 - information about the nature of the disorder.**

Was there any known degeneration of either joint prior to the injury?

mark with cross in appropriate box	dog 1	dog 2	dog 3	dog 4	dog 5	dog 6
left leg						
right leg						
both legs						

<b>both legs affected - indicate if:-</b>	dog 1	dog 2	dog 3	dog 4	dog 5	dog 6
a) both at the same time						
b) second leg within 1 month of first injury						
c) second leg some months (or more) following first injury						

<b>please indicate if dog required surgery for the condition (X = yes)</b>	dog 1	dog 2	dog 3	dog 4	dog 5	dog 6
one leg						
both legs						
indicate if condition reoccurred (X = yes)						

**section 3 - how injury occurred**

mark with cross in all applicable boxes	dog 1	dog 2	dog 3	dog 4	dog 5	dog 6
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during pregnancy/in season						
just walking along the road						
getting up from resting suddenly						
other *						

\* please give brief details

**section 4 - levels of exercise and activity levels prior to onset of condition**

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**Relates only to Chows that have had a Cruciate ligament INJURY**

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*lameness in close family members - please indicate with cross in appropriate box below*

mark with cross in all applicable boxes	dog 1	dog 2	dog 3	dog 4	dog 5	dog 6
sire						
dam						
siblings (brothers and sisters)						

***general degeneration of stifle joint e.g., arthritis/stiffness***

mark with cross in all applicable boxes	dog 1	dog 2	dog 3	dog 4	dog 5	dog 6
sire						
dam						
sibling						

Thank you for taking part in this survey – your participation is highly valued and will give valuable information about issues associated with cruciate ligament injury in the Chow Chow. This information will enable the Breed Council to investigate how best to work towards reducing the incidence of this condition in the future.

No information about the owners is recorded in any form ensuring complete anonymity.

If you have any difficulties or questions regarding this questionnaire or need help to fill it in please contact your club secretary who will be pleased to assist you or contact me (contact details below).

Please return the completed survey either to your club representative or at one of the breed club show or directly to me Pauline Lock, Patrice, The Green, Dauntsey, Chippenham. Wilts. SN15 4HY or by email [paulinelen@pau-lin.freeserve.co.uk](mailto:paulinelen@pau-lin.freeserve.co.uk)  
Telephone 01666510859 or 07787996060