

Tibetan Spaniel Club of America

Health Survey 2006 Part 2

This portion of the survey asked people to give their opinions or draw from their personal experiences. Since many of these answers are based on personal opinions, the information gained is certainly subject to some amount of bias. The other difficulty that arises is that some of the anomalies listed specifically by name were listed as such, but could have also fallen into a broader category. (i.e. Pemphigus vulgaris was mentioned and listed as a separate disease, but could have been lumped under auto-immune). One of the goals of this survey was to find out what people all over the US have experienced with their Tibbies and sharing those experiences without fear of reprisal. It is for this reason that I felt it was important to list each anomaly separately, so that in case someone else has a similar experience they will know that they are not alone. I have done my best to tally the answers and report them in the best and most understandable way possible. I truly appreciate the time and effort involved in taking part in this survey, and wants to sincerely thank all of you that responded.

Please note that the word “disease” in this part of the survey was used to encompass not only genetic diseases but also any other health related anomalies.

The total number of respondents to each question is listed after the question. The results are then listed in order from highest to lowest.

Abbreviations used:

Auto – Auto immune disease
DDD – Degenerative Disk Disease
LCP – Legg Calve Perthes
HD – Hip Dysplasia
PDA – Patent ductus arteriosus
PRA – Progressive Retinal Atrophy
PV – Pemphigus vulgaris

Part II: Please answer the following questions:

1. What do you consider to be the most common disease in Tibetan Spaniels? **57 respondents**

12 – hernias
11 – liver shunt
10 – DDD
9 – PRA
7 – Cherry eye
6 – other eye disorders
3 – allergies
2 – Auto, Patellas, Heart and HD
1 each pancreatitis, obesity, breathing difficulties, cysts, fading puppies, whelping difficulties

2. Which of the disease(s) that you checked in the survey above have appeared in littermates?

59 respondents

14 – Cherry eye

5 – DDD

3 - other eye disorders

2 – Heart

1 each HD, Allergies, patellas, hydrocephalus, whelping difficulties, teeth, demodectic mange, vaccine reactions, elongated soft palate, cleft palate, parrot mouth

3. Which of the diseases have appeared in closely related dogs? **47 respondents**

9 – Cherry Eye

6 – Hernia

3 – Liver shunts, DDD, Elongated soft palate

2 – Heart, Breathing difficulties

1 each HD, Auto, Allergies, cysts, whelping difficulties, demodectic mange

4. What do you consider to be the most rare of the diseases you checked above? **42 respondents**

4 – liver shunt

2 – heart, vaccine reaction, stenotic nares, female reproductive problems, Cushing's, bladder stones

1 each PRA, HD, Cherry eye, hernias, DDD, pancreatitis, elongated soft palate, cleft palate, radial luxation, hemangiosarcomas, mammary tumors, liver cancer, lung cancer, bladder cancer, melanoma, PV, hypo-trachea, mange, gallbladder, hypothyroid, kidney disease, farsightedness, obstructed trachea, seizures, LCP

5. Which diseases do you consider the most serious threat to the Tibetan Spaniel breed?

60 respondents

30 – PRA

27 – liver shunt

14 – DDD

8 – HD

7 – Auto

4 – cancer

3 – female reproductive problems, infectious diseases

2 – kidney disease, breathing difficulties, other eye disorders

1 each heart, patellas, hydrocephalus, inbreeding

6. What do you consider the most important disease of Tibetan Spaniel puppies?

37 respondents

20 – liver shunt

7 – fading puppies

2 – hydrocephalus

1 each heart, cherry eye, patellas, breathing difficulties, cleft palates, stenotic nares

7. What do you consider the most important disease of middle aged Tibetan Spaniels?

43 respondents

17 – DDD

7 – PRA, Cancer

2 – heart, HD, pancreatitis

1 each liver shunt, auto, allergies, patellas, other eye disorders, bladder stones, chronic ear infections

8. What do you consider the most important disease of the elderly Tibetan Spaniel?

46 respondents

13 – cancer

11 – heart

9 – arthritis

6 – kidney disease

5 – other eye disorders

4 – DDD

3 – PRA

2 each obesity, teeth

1 - seizures

9. What is the average life span of Tibetan Spaniels from your kennel? **45 respondents**

(some people gave a range so I tried to go for the middle of their range)

11 – 15 yrs

9 – 14 yrs

8 – 12 yrs

6 – 16 yrs

5 – 13 yrs

2 – 11 yrs

1 each 9.5, 10, 17, 18

10. What was the cause of death of the adult dog from your kennel to die most recently? Age at death? **47 respondents**

12 – died of old age

10 – cancer

4 - liver shunt

3 – kidney disease

2 each heart, hernias, Cushing's, hemangiosarcomas

1 each pancreatitis, pyometra, diabetes, stroke, mushroom poisoning, brain tumor, fungal infection

Age at death

8 – 14 yrs

4 – 11 yrs

3 – 2 yrs, 4 yrs, 15 yrs

2 each - less than a yr, 3 yrs, 7 yrs, 12 yrs

1 each at 6, 8, 10, 13, 16, 17

11. How many puppies were in your most recent litter? **65 respondents**

19 litters of 4
13 litters of 5
12 litters of 3
10 litters of 6
6 litters of 7
4 litters of 2
1 litter of 1

12. How many of those puppies died during or shortly after birth? At what age did they die?
64 respondents

43 litters – 0 died
8 pups died within the first 3 days
5 at
3 at birth
3 at more than 3 days, less than 1 week
3 at more than 1 week, less than 2 weeks
1 at more than 3 weeks, less than 4 weeks
1 at more than 4 weeks, less than 5 weeks

13. How many of the puppies survived beyond 8 weeks? Beyond 12 weeks? (if the litter in question 11 is less than 12 weeks old, answer based on your previous litter) **58 respondents**

58 total litters represented
39 litters all survived beyond 12 weeks
12 litters lost 1 pup each
6 litters lost 2 pups each
1 litter lost 3 pups

14. What was the cause of death (if known) of the puppies listed in questions 12 and 13?
20 respondents

5 – unknown causes
2 – anasarca (water babies)
2 – fading puppies
1 each – poor nursers, liver shunt, underdeveloped lungs, pneumonia, hydrocephalus, neurologic seizures, PDA, parrot mouth, imperforate anus, difficult delivery

15. Have any of your dogs ever had an adverse reaction to anesthesia? (if yes) please list type of anesthesia and pre-meds (if applicable), kind of reaction and any other info that you feel would be useful. **56 respondents**

43 had no reactions
5 – possible reactions to pre-meds
5 – reactions to anesthesia
11 – deaths during routine neuters and dentals

Reactions included lethargy, disorientation, seizures and coma

16. What do you feed your dogs? How often....once a day, twice a day, free feed....? Do you change or have you changed what you feed over the past 10 years. And have you noticed a difference in the general health of your dogs that you feel could be attributed to the change?

91 respondents

20 – Eukanuba

16 – Purina ProPlan

7 - Nutro

5 – Purina One, Science Diet, Iams

4 – Solid Gold, Raw

3 – Biljac, Pedigree

2 – Innova, Canidae, Merrick Grammy's Pot pie

1 each – Natural Balance, Joy, Beneful, Purina Dog Chow, Dr. Harvey's, Diamond, James Wells Beloved, Royal Canin

14 people had changed feed and noticed changes (including general health, skin, coat and improved dental health)

8 people had changed feed and noticed no differences

38 fed 2x a day

31 fed 1x a day

11 free feed

17. Do you think that TSCA should join other National Breed clubs in funding scientific research on diseases of purebred dogs? If so, for which diseases would you like to see research funded?

71 respondents

68 – yes

1 – no

1- unclear

1 - don't know

projects most favorable to donate to:

39 – PRA

27 – Liver shunt

12 - cancer

7 – Auto

6 – DDD

5 – other eye disorders

4 – hearts and HD

2 – Cherry eye, allergies, kidney disease

1 each – hernias, hydrocephalus, trachea problems, PV, elbow dysplasia, life threatening and inherited diseases

18. Any additional comments? 30 respondents

- A. I feel more attention should be paid to the breeds overall temperament. If temperaments aren't corrected who is going to want to have a Tibbie? In my opinion, Tibbies' aggression and shyness are problems. My dogs have problems with people, food, and other dogs to varying degrees. This should never happen.
- B. Tibetan Spaniels I have bred and cared for personally from birth, tend to have the fewest health problems. Dogs I have purchased from large breeding kennels tended to have the greatest amount of problems, both in temperament and health. The 3 listed with intervertebral disk disorders were all purchased as adults from the same person. My vet emphasized that handling methods could easily have caused the problems we are seeing. As yet it has not shown up in the next generation.
- C. over vaccination of our breed, especially rabies
- D. check into the reactions to the rabies shots
- E. having only 1 maiden bitch, there were many questions I could not answer about my kennel or breeding
- F. Our only one, a male Tibbie, who had Cushing's disease had all the attending heart, lung, kidney, skin, and eye problems. I did not list them separately since they were a result of Cushing's.
- G. I did not count baby teeth, cherry eye, etc. in the "basically healthy" category since they are minor.
- H. I have always considered our breed to be one of the most healthy. I am very against the so called "new" TS blood being introduced and mixed with ours. I am referring to the Middle European Damci blood. Nothing is known about them.
- I. Back problems are common. The breed standard needs to shorten the back a little. We don't need to be like dachshunds.
- J. Statistics for hip dysplasia, elbow, and knee problems are vague. This could be a serious issue if left unchecked by breeders.
- K. Would like to see statistics on canine cognitive disorder. Hip dysplasia is underreported.
- L. One puppy I bred and sold developed LCP at 9 months. Some vets say it is always genetic. Some say it also could be caused from injury.
- M. In comparison to other breeds the Tibbie is very healthy. I hope we can keep it this way.
- N. In any future health survey, I'd like to see a differentiation between breeding dogs/bitches and those who were not bred after a health problem was discovered. I think it's important to make clear that these were not added to the gene pool. I'd also like to see a section on temperament. I know that it is difficult because it is so subjective, but a Tibbie with a temper shouldn't pass on those genes either.
- O. Fortunately, I have had no diseases or fatalities. I have a very healthy line and hope it continues.
- P. I tried to be accurate but found the way this is set up makes it hard due to most things happened to puppies, not adults.
- Q. I feel that the breed is relatively healthy but we need to be aware of problems so that we can address them before they get out of hand.
- R. I look forward to reading the results.
- S. My 4 are all healthy with no issues at all.
- T. None of the health issues affected either of my 2 male dogs. They are pets and I have not bred any dogs at all.
- U. We are pet owners only and most questions do not apply or we have insufficient knowledge to answer them.
- V. I am an individual owner, not a breeder. I do not have enough experience to answer questions 1-15 in part II of the survey.
- W. Not all are diseases but problems
- X. I am not a breeder. My dogs are companion dogs only.
- Y. I think today's Tibbie has far too much coat and misses the standard of the breed. We don't need more "Pekes".

Z. I have one very healthy tibble, so I cannot really answer the following. Glad that you are monitoring the breed.

AA. Overall, few health issues. Breeding difficulties are number 1.

BB. A litter sired by my male to outside female produced one pup with a severe undershot jaw and the 2 males developed intervertebral disk disease at 2-3 years of age – one was euthanized and one surgically repaired

CC. I am not a Tibetan Spaniel breeder. I have owned only 2 tibbies and am not qualified to complete this questionnaire completely.