

Prevalence and lifestyle risk factors for intervertebral disc disease in English cocker spaniels

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Introduction

- Accounted for 15.5% of IVDD cases at the QVSH
- Second most common gundog breed in KC registrations [1]
- Limited data on breed specific prevalence and IVDD characteristics
- Questionnaire study distributed via the UK kennel club

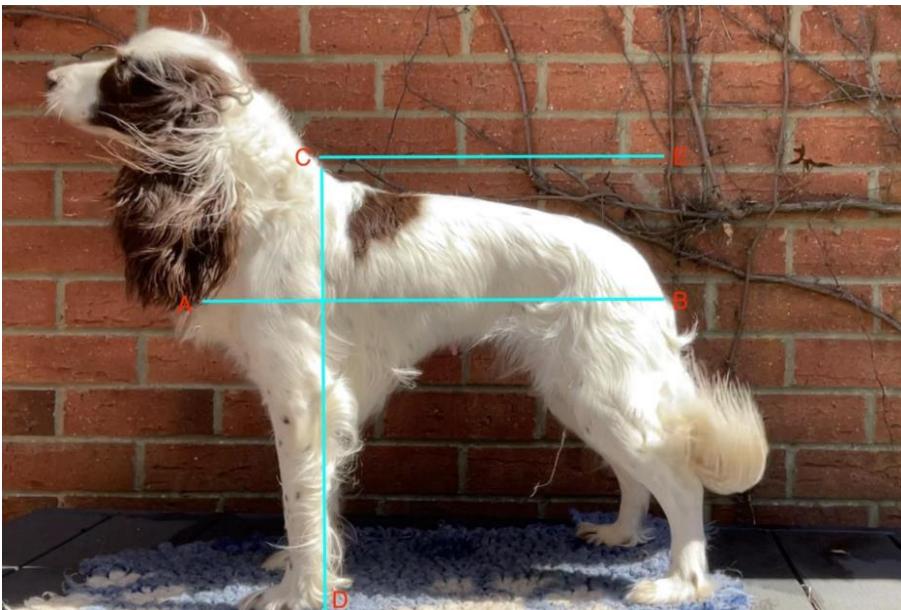
Results and Discussions

- English Cocker Spaniel (n = 2654); 150 cases
- Most affected region: lumbar spine (53.02%)

Prevalence data

Breed variety	Cases (n)	Total (n)	IVDD prevalence (%)	95% CI (%)	OR
Working	54	1463	3.44	2.61-4.49	1.0
Show	86	870	8.99	7.30-11.03	2.86
Mixed	6	70	8.57	3.53-18.35	2.5

CI=confidence interval OR=odds ratio. Four cases of unknown breed variety were excluded from this table. n=2403.



From point A to point B= Total length (TL), from point C to E= Back length (BL), and from point C to D=Height at the withers (HW).

References

- [1]-The Kennel Club. Gundog breed statistics. The Kennel Club. Published 2023. Available at: <https://www.thekennelclub.org.uk/media/xzqdv5i/quarterly-breed-stats-gundogs.pdf>
- [2]-<https://content.lyka.com.au/f/1016262/1104x676/01b6a4230e/cocker-spaniel.webp/m/1280x720/smart>.



Potential risk factors identified

- Male sex (OR 14.39, 95% CI: 7.30–28.36)
- Neutered (OR 7.9, 95% CI: 4.25–14.67)
- Harness use (OR 2.63, 95% CI: 1.47–4.69)
- Pulling on the harness (OR 1.72, 95% CI: 1.17–2.56)
- Highly active protective (OR=0.19, 95% CI:.06 to .60)
- Chondroitin supplement (OR=2.79, 95% CI: 1.60 to 4.87)
- Glucosamine supplement (OR=2.46, 95% CI: 1.58 to 3.84)
- Did not jump in and out of the car (OR=2.43, 95% CI:1.73 to 3.43)
- Did not jump on and off the sofa (OR=1.91, 95% CI:1.33 to 2.75)

Conformational measurements

Breed Variety	TL:HW Ratio (mean ± SD)	BL:HW Ratio (mean ± SD)
Working	1.27 ± 0.19	1.17 ± 0.57
Show	1.24 ± 0.23	1.12 ± 0.23
Mixed	1.23 ± 0.27	1.12 ± 0.25

Conformational measurements: TL: HW= Total length: Height at withers, and BL: HW= Body length: Height at withers. N=1931

Conclusion

- IVDD is common in the English cocker spaniel
- Higher prevalence in the show vs working lines
- Several potential risk factors explored