

# ***CRESWICK CLUMBER SPANIELS***

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*Welcome to the world of Clumber Spaniels! We know you have spent a great deal of time in your selection of our breed, and we are pleased that you have chosen Creswick. Below are a few pointers that may be helpful in the rearing of your new Clumber.*

1. Clumbers require a lot of water, especially in the warmer months. Keep fresh water available at all times. Some dogs may need a drool towel strategically located near the water dish to wipe his/her mouth after a drink.
2. Clumber eyes are very deep set and can droop. Sometimes debris can collect in this pocket causing tearing. Clean his/her eyes everyday with a soft tissue or a warm washcloth to prevent staining from these tears.
3. Clumber ear leather is very thick and does not allow for sufficient air circulation into the ear. To avoid infections keep the ear clean and dry. Moisture in the ear will cause problems. Ask your veterinarian for a solution such as Chlorhexiderm to clean the ear and aid in keeping them dry and healthy.
4. The Clumber coat will stay clean and white with minimum of care. A good brushing on a regular basis will keep the coat in top condition and reduce some of the shedding. When brushing, pay special attention to the hair behind the ears, the neck frill, under the arms and the feathers on the front and back legs. If mats are going to form, these are the likely spots. **If you take your Clumber to a groomer, remember most have never even seen a Clumber, much less groomed one. Unlike all other spaniels, the clumber back and ears are never clipped with an electric clipper.** The hair is trimmed around the feet and pads, the ears and tail with a scissors or thinning shear.
5. **Clip or grind toe nails or have them clipped at least once a month, and preferably every two weeks.** At the same time, trim hair around each foot and on the bottom between the pads of the feet.

6. The Clumber is a very social breed and will not thrive if relegated to the status of yard dog. Clumbers are devoted to their families and prefer to be with them at all times. Clumber puppies can be very soft and will become shy and even fearful if not given adequate socialization through out their life. It is critical that you **take the time to continually socialize your Clumber with many people, dogs, new experiences and new places.**
7. Clumbers are very sensitive, and because a Clumber's relationship with his family is most important, he is very eager to please. Use lots of praise and rewards such as special treats when doing any kind of training. Our experience is that clumbers do better in group training programs rather than by private trainers. Private trainers and sessions are usually too intense. Always remember that your Clumber will become bored, turn off, and even resentful if the training method used is aggressive. Remember also that most Clumbers are smarter than their owners give them credit for, and do not believe in expending any more energy than is necessary to get the job done. Praise and affection will go a lot further with your Clumber than repeated physical corrections. Just the tone of your voice can be the most successful reprimand you need.
8. Clumbers love to carry anything in their mouth, and if there isn't anything of theirs handy, they will pick up something of yours. Clumber adults (sometime after one year of age) are not usually as destructive. **Puppies on the other hand are very, very bad! Keep plenty of toys available at all times,** (rawhide bones, smoked flavored hoovies, nylabones and safe stuffed toys) and most important, **do not leave your Clumber puppy unsupervised with the run of the house or backyard! You will be sorry!** You may return to a three-legged table or your family album in shreds, not to mention the deadly result if your puppy decided to chew on an electrical cord. If your Clumber puppy will be left at times, you must be prepared. Make sure you have a safe puppy proofed restricted area to confine him in. A Clumber's worst enemy is boredom and most Clumbers are the worst when left alone. Consider seriously the use of a crate. Dogs are domesticated forms of their cave ancestors and will soon think of the crate as their den, a place to sleep and get away from the hustle and bustle.
9. Due to the Clumber's heavy build; he is predisposed to some problems. His heavy brow is designed to protect the eye in dense brush, but can contribute to a predisposition for entropion (curling inward of the

eyelids). The long back is subject to disc disease usually in later years, especially in an overweight Clumber. Extra pounds on their long back can be a deadly combination! **Keep your Clumber on the trim side for a long healthy life.** You must be able to feel ribs when you run your fingers along his side. If you can't, your Clumber is too fat! Some Clumbers suffer from "dry eye" usually later in life. If a Clumber has dry eye, he is not producing enough tears to lubricate them properly. Dry eye is easily treated with drops applied daily to the eye. If untreated, dry eye can cause blindness. A Clumber's anal glands may need to be emptied regularly, either by your veterinarian or groomer, to avoid problems.

10. The Clumber Spaniel has faced extinction many times. Its gene pool is still very small. Making advancements is a slow process. While it is not our intent to popularize our breed, we do seek to improve it.

*Most of all, we hope you enjoy your new Clumber Spaniel! Please feel free to contact us at any time if you have questions, concerns, or just to keep in touch and let us know how you and your Clumber are doing.*

*Julie and Bob Wickwire*