

## PLSCWWE HEALTH SURVEY for 2016-17; Info from 2014 Health Survey

The report has been compiled from questionnaires voluntarily completed by members and supporters of the club. The number of dogs is only a proportion of our members' dogs. We also have the impression that healthy fit dogs are less likely to be entered into the survey, so this must be taken into account when determining the significance of the analysis, but it does give a good indication of the health status of the Polish Lowland Sheepdog. We do need to continue to monitor our breed. We also need to devise a way to encourage a greater participation.

It does indicate that the Polish Lowland Sheepdog is a healthy breed with no inherent health problems and continues to be "Fit for Function".

### Summary:

Owners	48A
Dog Number	78 including 3 from France & 2 from USA
Gender	Males, 32. Females, 45
Ages	0-1 yrs-0, 1 & 2 yrs-14, 3&4 yrs-16, 7-8 yrs-9, 9-10 yrs-13, 11-12 yrs-4, 13 yrs and over-6
Died	4 Lymphoma @ 7 yrs; Diabetes @ 10yrs; Liver Cancer @ 12 yrs; Senility @ 14 yrs
Gastrointestinal	1 Acute Pancreatic Insufficieny; 1 Irritable Bowel Syndrome; 1 Sensitive GI tract; 1 Liver Cancer (Died)
Respiratory	0
Cardiac	1 Heart murmur (no symptoms); 1 Auricular fibrillation (tachycardia) and Heart Failure on Digoxin (pre-existing).
Urogenital	0
Neurological	1 Epilepsy
Blood & Lymph	1 Lymphoma (Died)
Eyes	1 Blind PRA (Confirmed) 2 very limited vision, cataracts (all pre-existing)
Ears	3 Ear Infections; 2 Haomatoma ext. ear
Skin	8 dogs noted skin problems, 3 benign lumps, 2 with irritation of feet, 1 had steroids to clear
Arthritis	5 in hind legs
Trauma	1 Anterior Cruciate Ligament Injury & Repair
Endocrine	1 Diabetes (10 yrs old & died), 1 Hypothyroidism controlled on tablets, 8 yrs
Autoimmune	0
Infection	0

Sterilised	1
Dogs with no significant illnesses	67
Diet	54 Kibble
	19 Mixed Kibble + Meat, Vegetables &/or fruit
	3 Special Diet – Low Protein & Fat

My thanks to everyone from the club and from Facebook who sent back their Health Questionnaire, including 5 from 'abroad'.

The report will be circulated to members of the PLSCWWE, other Polish Lowland Breed Clubs in UK and abroad, those participating in the Survey and published on our web site. We will repeat the survey next year

The KC ran a breed health survey in 2014. Forms were received representing 23 living dogs & 7 deceased dogs. Mortality results: a total of 7 deaths were reported, representing 0.12% of all deaths reported in the Pedigree Breed. The range of longevity for the Polish Lowland Sheepdog was 6 years to 17 years.

The most common causes of death/reasons for euthanasia (N =7 deceased dogs): Cancer - unspecified  
 Cardiomyopathy  
 Kidney disease

Old Age Pancreatitis Skin tumour

The full document can be found at:

[https://www.thekennelclub.org.uk/media/749635/polish\\_lowland\\_sheepdog.pdf](https://www.thekennelclub.org.uk/media/749635/polish_lowland_sheepdog.pdf)

Health and the future for our PONs

We monitor the health and illnesses of our Polish Lowland Sheepdogs direct from our members and current literature. We have added a recommendation that bitches are not mated till they are 2 years old and should not mate bitches over 8 yrs of age and to have no more than 4 litters with at least 12 months between litters. To only mate dogs that have had an eye examination within the year and have been Hip X Rayed under the BVSA Hip Dysplasia scheme. To enable the combined score of both parents to be kept low, but also to take into account the family history of both parents and to consult the KC inbreeding coefficient. We do not recommend a specific hip score for breeding.

We do not recommend any routine DNA testing at present.

There is increasing interest in the gut microbiome (bacteria in the gut) and that these micro-organisms may have an important influence on the health of the whole body, especially the immune system. About 70% of our dogs are fed a Kibble — a complete dry food, but cooked and sterile. Will this affect the micro-biome and the health of the dog? Our numbers are far too small and we do not have the facilities to contribute to this debate. I feel we need independent investigation to give us advice on the most appropriate diet not only for nutritional content but to give and maintain good health.

We hope to arrange the eye testing of our older dogs to determine the incidence of pathology in the older dogs eyes. Initially looking for Progressive Retinal Atrophy, but also any other pathology.

We are not receiving communications from the Breed Health Coordinator.