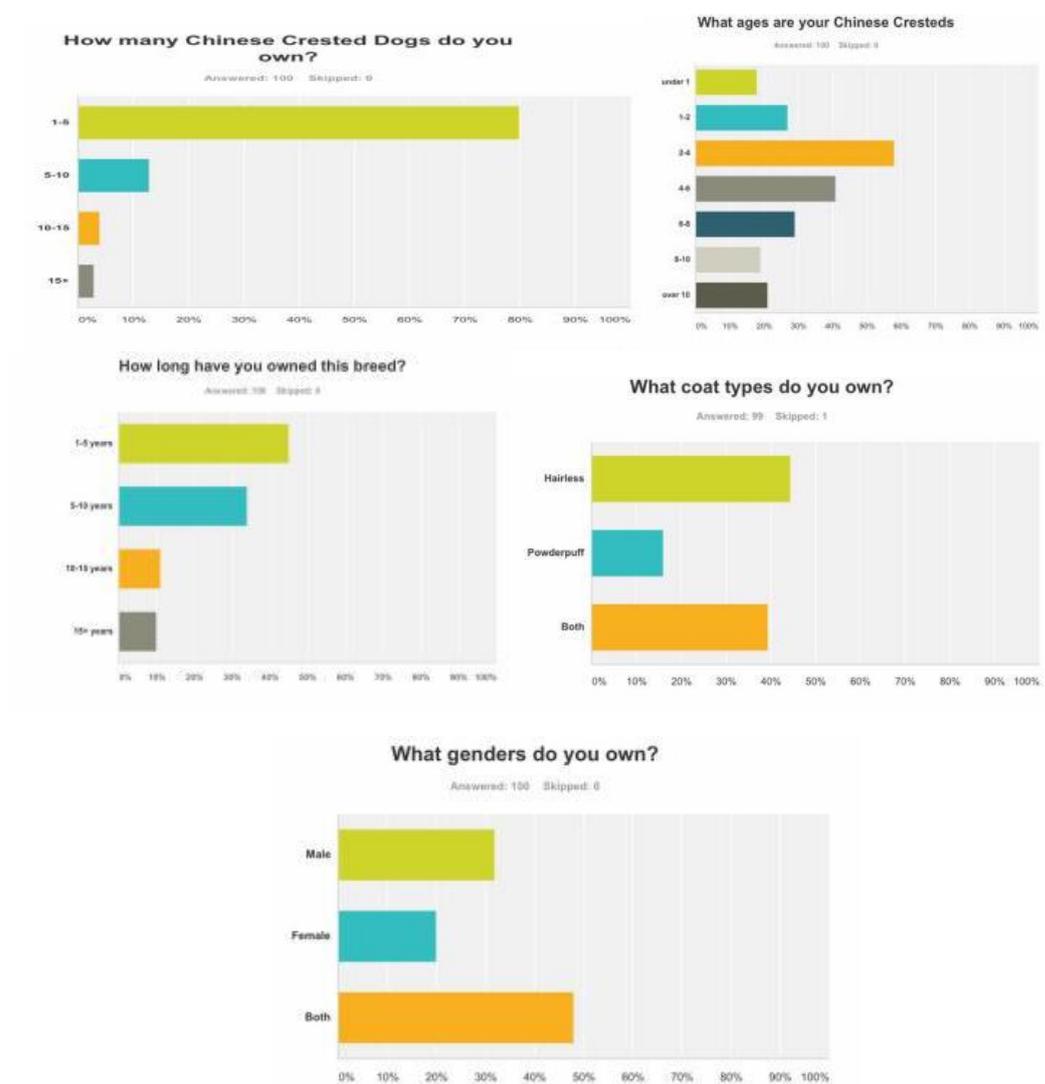


Chinese Crested Health Survey 2017

As a club and fellow Chinese Crested owners we want to thank all those that took part in the 2017 Health Survey. We were limited to 100 responses, sadly as many more owners expressed their concerns about not being able to take part, this is something we will look into for the next survey and hope that we can offer unlimited responses next time. Thank you also to all those that left extra feed back.

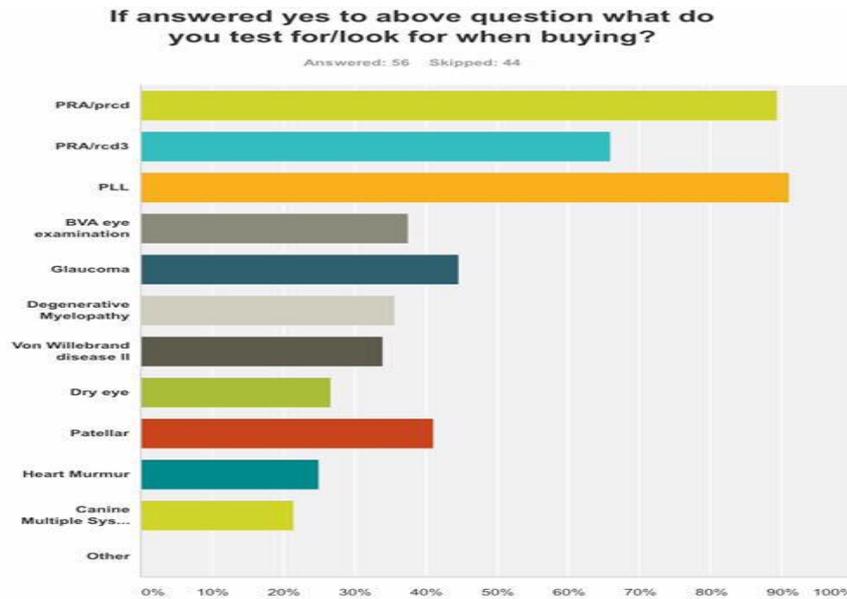
The responses were mainly from the UK, with 57% being from pet owners, 26% breeders & exhibitors, 15% exhibitors and 2% breeders.

Data Break Down;



60% answered 'yes' to health testing breeding dogs/buying from breeders that had tested, where as 40% voted 'no'.

Chinese Crested Health Survey 2017



The chart shows that from those that voted PRA/prcd & PLL rated the highest. Although its a surprise that even with those who are pro health testing many of these issues where ranked so low, I was most surprised that Glaucoma was voted by less than 50% and BVA eye examination even lower with less than 40%. We must remember that even with DNA tests, the BVA eye examination is important to identify a normal healthy eye, looking for issues that we often can not or do not test for, some issues have a late onset for clinical signs, so it is advised to have a BVA eye examination annually, regardless of the DNA tests undergone.

Comments received showed that Pawprints Genetics was most favoured to use for DNA testing, many believing the panel was a good idea, often with discounts/offer it was an affordable way to test for everything offered at once.

Other comments suggest that Epilepsy within pedigrees should be researched as this is not testable, some are already doing this before breeding. Others left comments saying they also check for heart murmurs on breeding dogs via their own vets.

For those that answered no to the above question, the reasons varied with the main reason being 'I do not breed often so do not feel I need to test' with 17% voting as such. Followed by 'I have never had a problem so see no reason to test'. 9% believed 'the breed did not need testing' & the last 4% voted 'they could not afford to test'. The rest of the responses had voted yes, so the question did not apply.

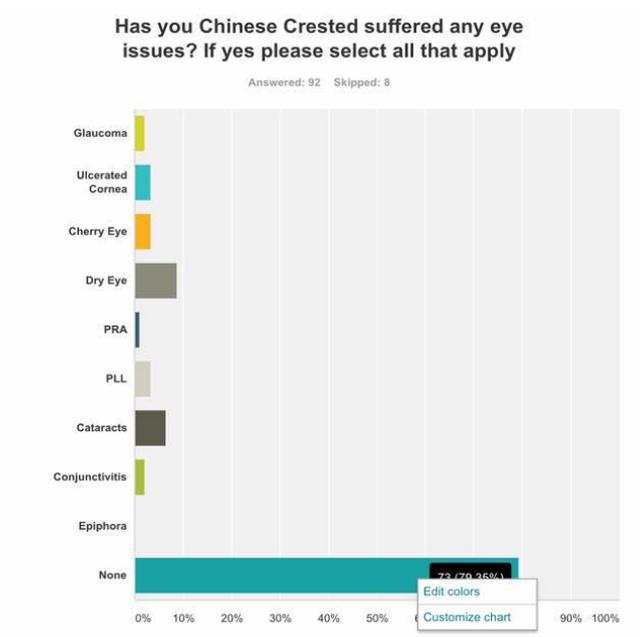
Skin Issues

The biggest issue seen with skin was black heads 62% voted that they have had dogs with them, 13% had dogs with sebaceous cysts and 12% voted having dogs who suffered from sores. 35% voted that they had dogs with allergies, and the rest voted to never having an issues.

From the comments left, lots of those that responded had dogs that at some point had suffered from 'acne'. 'Warts' had also been mentioned in the feedback, as dogs aged.

Eye Issues

Chinese Crested Health Survey 2017



Above 92% of those that took part responded, to which if any eye issues they have had dogs with. 79% had never experienced eye issues with their dogs, while those that had were overall in low numbers. 'Dry eye' was highest with a vote from 8%, which is a high amount considering only 26% believed 'Dry eye' to be an issue within the breed, this was followed by cataracts with a vote from 6%.

Considering PLL & PRA/prcd was voted the highest when asked what is tested for, or looked for when buying they rated very low with PLL at 3% and PRA/prcd with only 1%. Is this because generally those testing are testing for both, so we are seeing less of both of these issues?

Comments left with regards to eye issues, mainly summed up that owners expect dogs to go blind with old age, reason being unknown in most cases.

Dental Issues

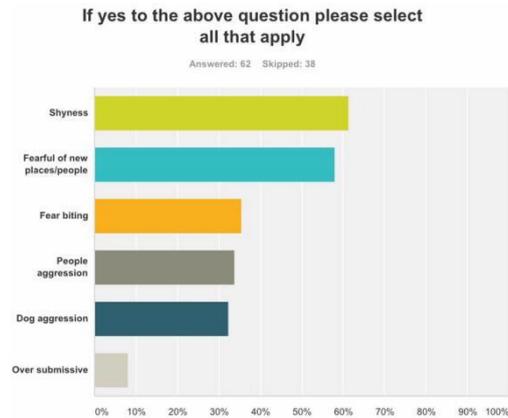
37% of those that responded said that they had Chinese Cresteds with missing teeth, this seemed to be mainly in the hairless variety and caused them no problems, these were dogs that lost them at a young age (26% voted that they had lost teeth before an expected age), and in some cases puppies had never developed a full set. 33% voted that they had dogs that retained puppy teeth, mainly canines and had in some cases had to have them removed by vets, as was putting dogs off of their food. 5% had issues with undershot mouths, 3% with overshot and 3% with wry mouths. The rest voted to never having an issues.

Comments left suggest that many had seen issues with bad breath, and breaking teeth. Some had also reported teeth growing into the lip, or growing upside down, in these cases teeth had to be removed.

Temperament Issues

Chinese Crested Health Survey 2017

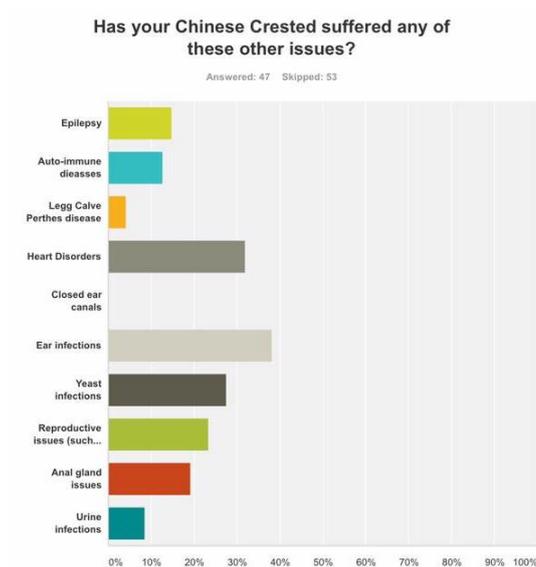
63% voted that they had a Chinese Crested with temperament issues, the biggest issue reported was 'shyness' with 61%.



After lots of reports of Chinese Cresteds rejecting food, we added the question 'Do you have a Chinese Crested unwilling to eat or difficult to feed' to our survey. 28% answered 'yes', and the remaining responded 'no'.

So although there are some dogs that are difficult with food, there are many reasons and situations that are a part of that problem. There seemed to be no common link between those dogs that had issues with food.

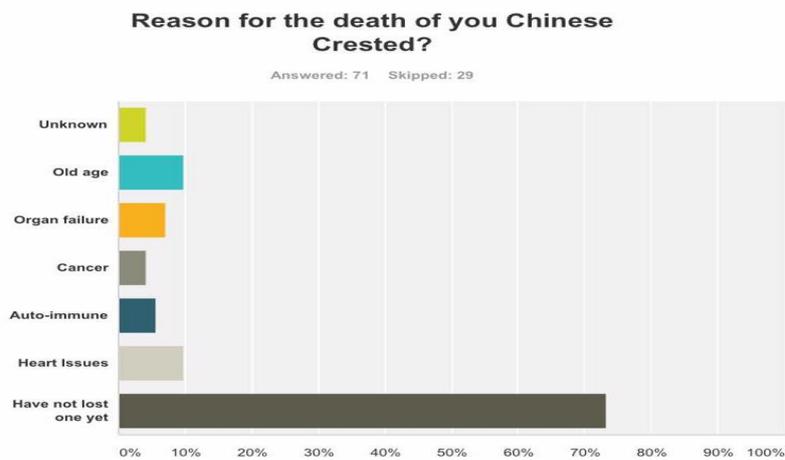
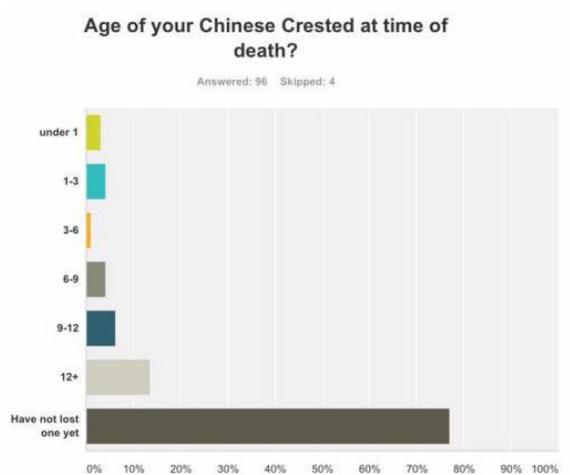
Other Issues



The biggest issue seen in the above chart was 'ear infections', followed by 'heart disorders' and then 'yeast infections'.

Age & Reason of Death

Chinese Crested Health Survey 2017



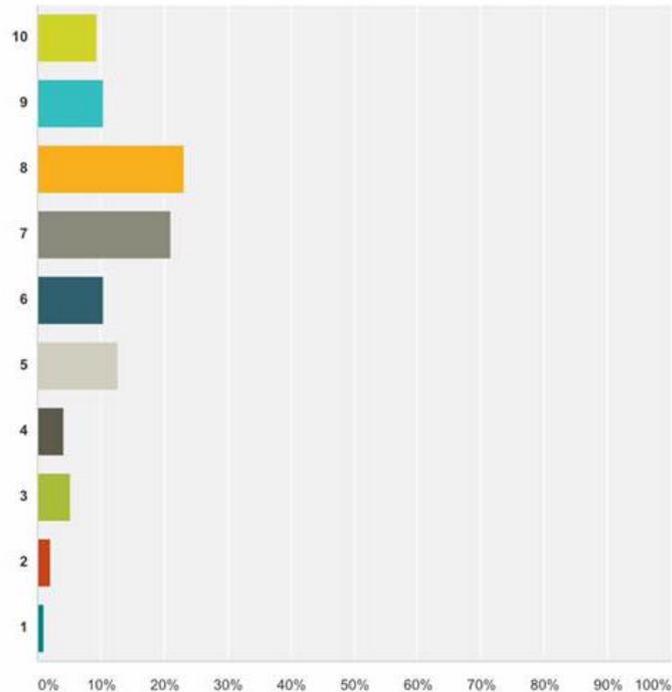
It was nice to see that of those that had lost a Chinese Crested they were mostly of older age, with over 13% voting 12+ and 6% voting between 9-12. However with 77% voting to have not lost one yet it is hard to see work out an average life expectancy age from our survey, one would hope this would be because our beloved pets are living to a ripe old age, but you go back to the start of the survey and see that the majority voted to owning dogs between 1-5, so with mainly young dogs information added into the survey we are unlikely to see high death rate.

Heart issues and old age, both had a vote of 9.86% for reasons of death. But again with over 70% voting to not having lost a dog yet, we will have low numbers in the votes.

Chinese Crested Health Survey 2017

Lastly how do you rate your knowledge on health (from what your testing for & understanding the results, to recognizing symptoms? 10 being fully understanding & 1 very little understanding

Answered: 95 Skipped: 5



Knowledge on Health

Lastly we wanted to get an idea of how those that responded rated their knowledge on health, health is a difficult subject to fully understand, as there will always be an element of the unknown, with issues we can not test for and new things cropping up.

The majority of those that took part rated themselves highly with over 60% voting themselves 7 or higher (with 10 being fully understand and 1 little understanding) with these results it looks like we have a group of people that are well informed with regards to health, so then I can not help but wonder why within the results so many of these responses are voting to not testing for certain issues, its sad to see that from those that are pro testing less than 50% voted that they tested for all of the named issue, or brought from breeders that did so, with the exception of PLL, PRA/prcd and PRA/rcd3 which all rated fairly highly.

The main thing that stands out when summarising this particularity survey is that there is a huge disconnect between what people are testing for, or seeing in their own dogs to the level of understanding most rate themselves as having with regards to knowledge on health. Can one really rate themselves as having a good understanding when many are not testing for basic known issues, or believing that some are indeed even a problem within the breed, people are DNA testing for eye issues, but are not doing annual BVA checks on breeding dogs, we must remember with eye diseases that some can be secondary to other issues and it is important to know the general health of the eye, and not just the DNA status for certain issues.

Chinese Crested Health Survey 2017

Anyone looking into breeding, or buying a puppy I would urge you to speak to others. Health is only one factor in doing so but its a very important one. We should be talking about it openly, there are many groups on social media that are dedicated to the health of our breed, some for discussion for learning and sharing purposes and others with files detailing affected dogs of different issues, added with permission of breeders and owners. These type of groups serve a huge purpose in helping breeders plan current litters, a place that you can look through and see if any dogs within the pedigree of a planned mating are listed as being affected of an issue, however we must remember that not all affected dogs are known, not everyone is honest and some will not want their dogs added to such groups. So its important to get the balance right use the information that is shared, but remember for every dog that is added there will be another one that is unknown. One must also remember that just because a dog is listed on a group or known to have an issue it should not be penalised likewise for any related dogs of an affected. The purpose of knowing this information is to try and not double up on issues, and be prepared if an issue was to come out. The mode of inheritance is not the same for all issues, and for some issues we still do not know how they are inherited.

Knowledge is key, and as a club we hope that through out 2018 we can work together to bring a better understanding of the health of this breed to all.

Those that voted lower on their health knowledge, suggested that there should be more information available, with breed related issues, how to avoid them and symptom to look out for, for each issue. With education, and honest/open breeders & owners I hope that we can share this knowledge, and secure a better and healthier future for our breed.