

Health Scheme report April 2021 to July 2023

Three Key Areas remain :-

1. BOAS
2. Spinal problems
3. Allergies

The 2020/21 report received the same top three health concerns as the previous year, with actions including encouraging the use of the University of Cambridge/ KC Respiratory Function Grading (RFG) Scheme and holding four sessions at club shows, continuing to collect data on spinal problems in the breed through the use of spine screening and collecting data on allergies in the breed.

French Bulldog Health Scheme – No changes made since Aug 2020

The French Bulldog Club of England also run their own health scheme consisting of Four levels.

The scheme is open to **ALL** KC registered dogs over 12 months of age.

Basic Health Check – Visual Health Assessment completed by a Veterinary Surgeon which includes :

- a) Heart auscultation
- b) BOAS assessment
- c) Nostril grading
- d) Eye examination (for signs of excessive tearing, entropion, ectropion, distichiasis, pannus, enlarged third eyelid, eyes of unequal size, dry eye, and corneal scarring)
- e) Any narrowing of the ear canal and signs of hearing loss
- f) Any skin affliction
- g) Patella score
- h) Spinal palpation
- i) Tail examination
- j) Temperament evaluation

Upon submission to scheme a Confirmation of Participation is issued and the results recorded on the database.

Bronze:

Bronze Level Certificate – Open to Breed Standard Recognised Colours Only

Completion of the visual health assessment as required by the Basic Health Check

Participation in the KC/ UoC Respiratory Function Grading Scheme

Silver:

To have obtained the Certificate of Participation in Bronze Level with the following results: (Breed Standard Colours Only)

- a) Participation in the RFG Scheme (Grade 0 or 1)
- b) Nostrils Grade 1 - Open or 2 - Mild Stenosis (Depending on assessors comments exceptions can be made if the nostrils are Grade 3 – moderate Stenosis but the RFG must be a grade 0 or 1)
- c) Heart test, either:
 - a. Normal results within the previous 12 months
 - b. Repeat heart test with normal results
- d) Patella score (Grade 0 or 1)
- e) DNA tested for HC-HSF4 (Clear result) or Hereditary Clear

Gold:

To have obtained the Certification of Participation in Bronze and Silver level with the following: Breed Standard Standard colours only

- a) To be at least two years of age
- b) To have obtained a BOAS grade 0 or 1 under the University of Cambridge/KC RFG when the dog is over the age of two.
- c) Repeated heart test with a normal reading (dog must be 2 at age of testing)
- d) Spinal X-ray and evaluation.

Optional recommended tests for ALL Levels

- a) Participation in the BVA/KC/ISDS Eye Scheme
- b) DNA test – cystinuria type 3
- c) DNA test – degenerative myelopathy
- d) DNA test – hyperuricosuria (HUU)

To minimise cost, the FBCE recommends that the basic health check is carried out by RFG assessor.

Health Testing Events have been completed at various locations events in 2021/2022/2023

Sept/Oct 2021 - SKC – Champ Show (Edinburgh)

Nov 2021 FBCE Open and Championship Shows (Guildford) 2 days.

Jan 2022 – FBCE - Willenhall West Midlands –

May 2022 – Pennine & Scottish FBA Champ Show- Middlesbrough

Jun 2022– Blackpool Champ Show (Nr Preston)

Jul 2022 – FBCE – Swansea, Wales. 2 days.

Jul 2022 - Leeds Champ Show (Leeds)

Jul 2022 - Pennine & Scottish FBA Open Show – Gretna Green

Nov 2022 – West Lancs French Bulldog Club Open Show

Nov 2022 FBCE STAG and Championship Shows (Swindon) 2 days.

Nov 2022 – FBCE – Enfield Middlesex

Apr 2023 – FBCE – Felton, North Somerset

Apr 2023 – FBCE – Newbury, Berks

May 2023 – SKC – Champ Show Edinburgh

Jun 2023– Blackpool Champ Show

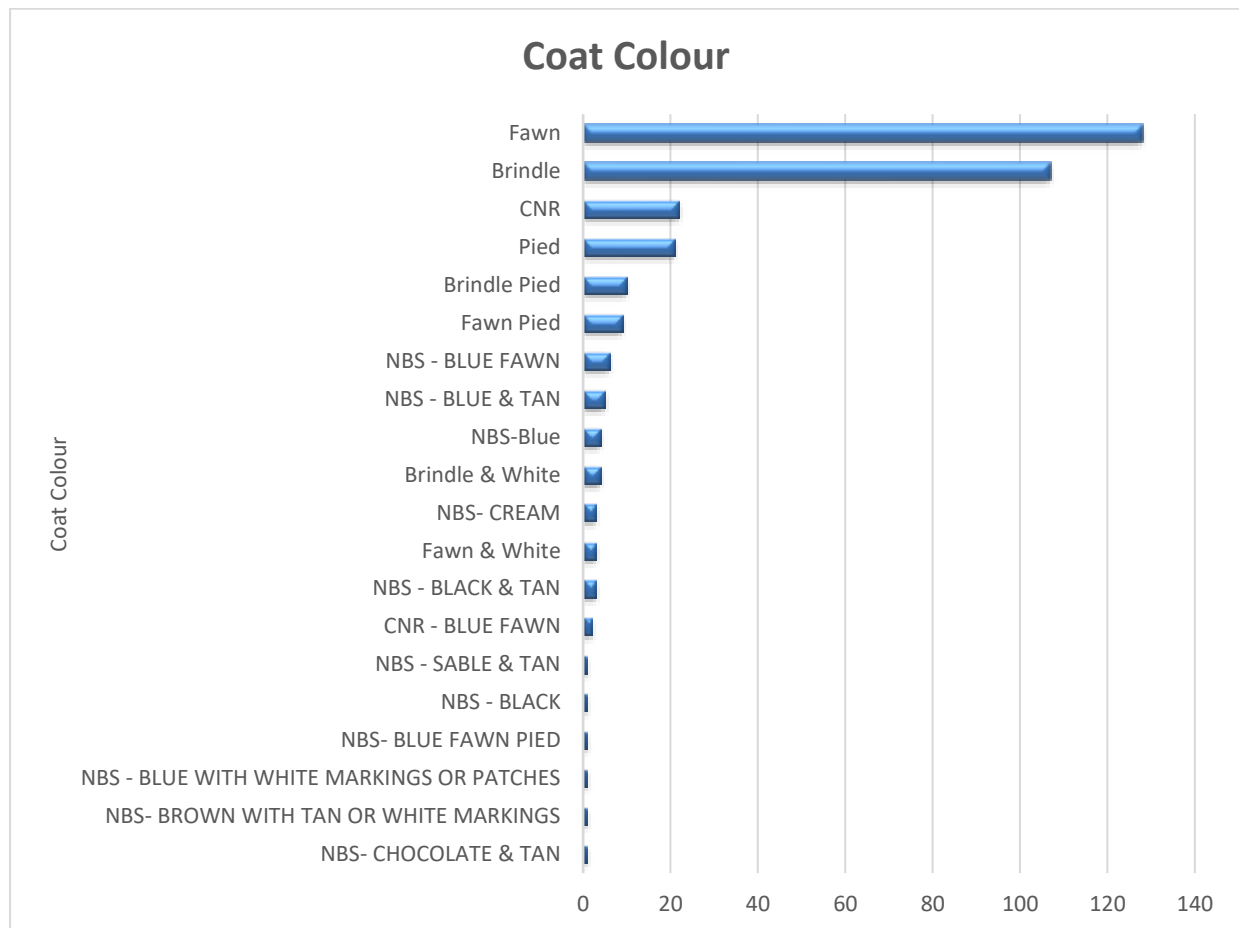
Jul 2023 - Leeds Champ Show

Forthcoming Nov 2023 – FBCE STAG & Champ Show and FBCE Enfield – 3 days

Scheme Statistics – April 2022 to Jul 2023

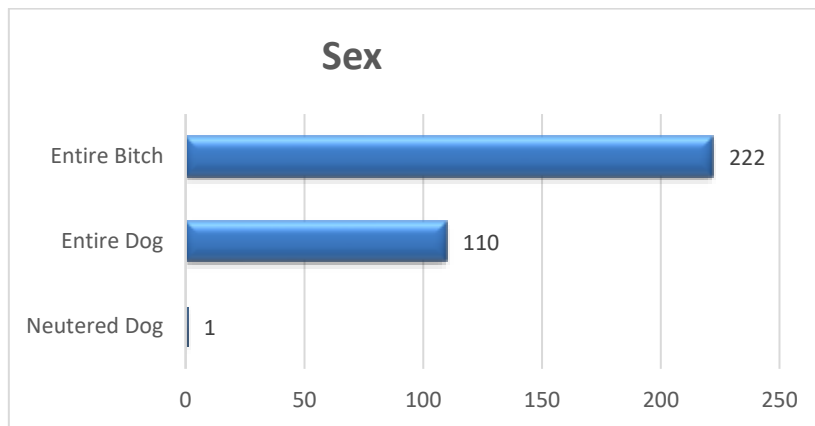
333 dogs have participated with the majority 282 being of Standard Colour. (84.6%). 51 NBS 15.3% have been issued the Basic Confirmation of Participation. The proportion of NBS dogs that have participated has is slightly below the last reporting period 16.2%.

Brindle	107
Brindle & White	4
Brindle Pied	10
NBS	51
Fawn	128
Fawn & White	3
Fawn Pied	9
Pied	21
Grand Total	333



Sex

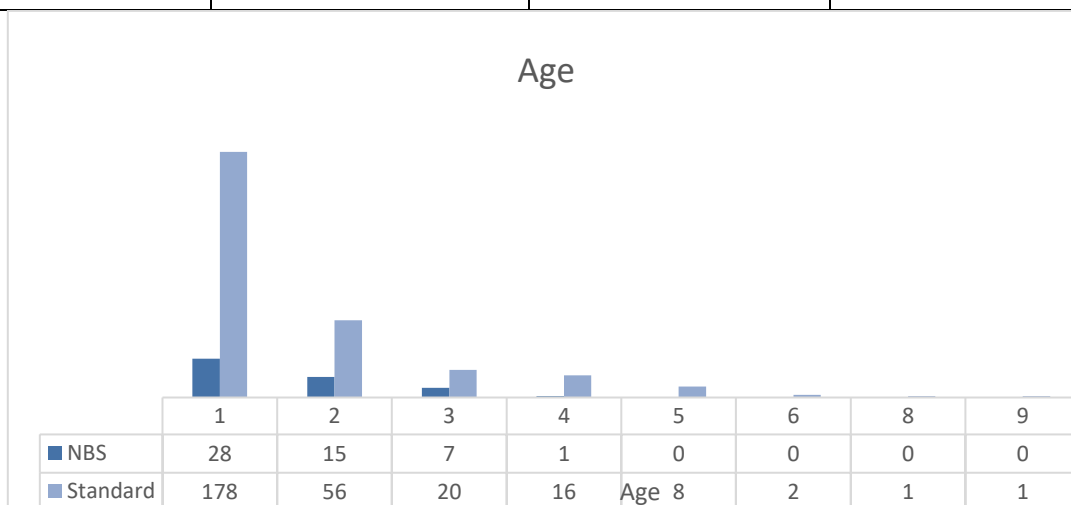
Of the 333 dogs tested, 222 were entire bitches, 110 Entire Dogs and 1 Neutered Dog.



Age

The average age at the time of testing was 1.7 Years of age, with the oldest tested being 9 years of age.

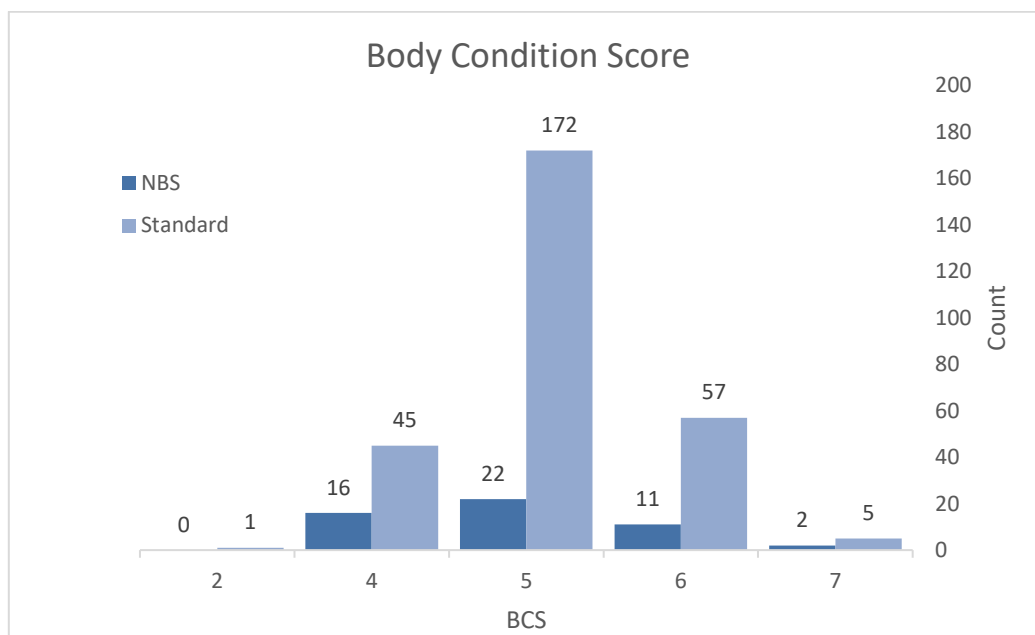
Age	Count of standard coloured dogs	Age	Count of NBS dogs
1	178	1	28
2	57	2	15
3	21	3	7
4	16	4	1
5 and Over	12	5 and Over	0



Body Condition Scores (1-9 Scale)

BCS	Count of standard coloured dogs	BCS	Count of NBS dogs
Condition Score 4,5,6 (ideal)	274	Condition Score 4,5,6 (ideal)	49
Underweight (1,2,3)	1	Underweight (1,2,3)	
Overweight (7,8,9)	5	Overweight (7,8,9)	2

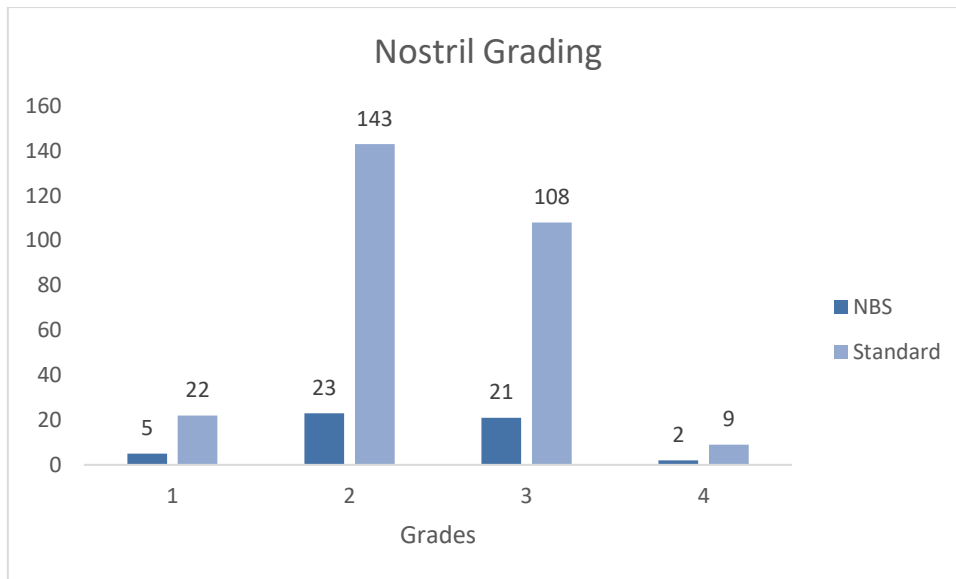
2 dogs not recorded.



Nostril Grading

Nostril stenosis grading forms part of the assessment, with guidance document issued from Cambridge scheme.

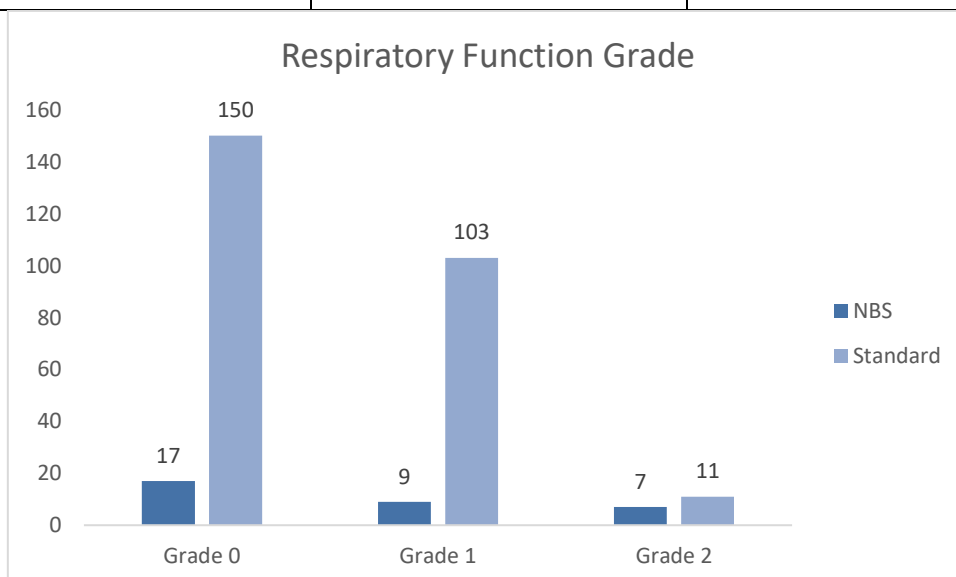
Nostril Grade	Count of standard coloured dogs	Count of NBS dogs
1 - Open	22	5
2 – Mild Stenosis	143	23
3 – Moderate Stenosis	108	21
4 – Severe Stenosis	9	2



Respiratory Function Grade

The FBCE Health Scheme was changed in Aug 2020 to encourage participation in the RFG scheme at the time of the Basic Health Check. Of the 333 dogs that have participated in the Health Scheme during the reporting period, 297 dogs have received official grading under the KC/UOC scheme.

RFG	Count of standard coloured dogs	Count of NBS dogs
0	150	17
1	103	9
2	11	7
3	0	0



Of the remaining dogs, their breathing was assessed on the Visual health Assessment Report using a 3 minute exercise tolerance test following the RFG protocol and the Pre and Post Exercise Scores are shown below.

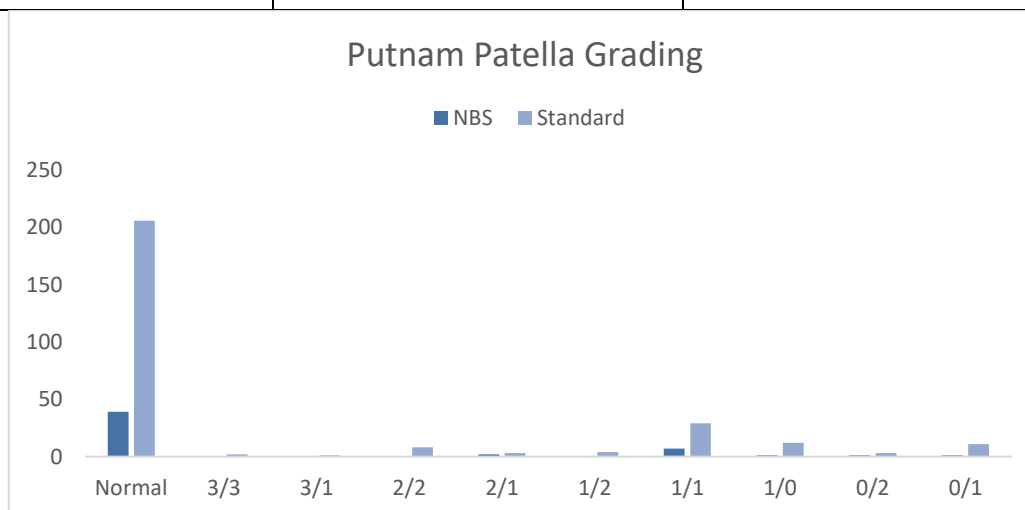
Pre and Post Exercise Scores Shown for dogs without an official RFG

Breathing Grade	Count of standard coloured dogs	Count of NBS dogs
Good/Good	15	14
Good/Acceptable	1	2
Acceptable/Acceptable	1	2
Acceptable/Poor	1	

Patella Grading

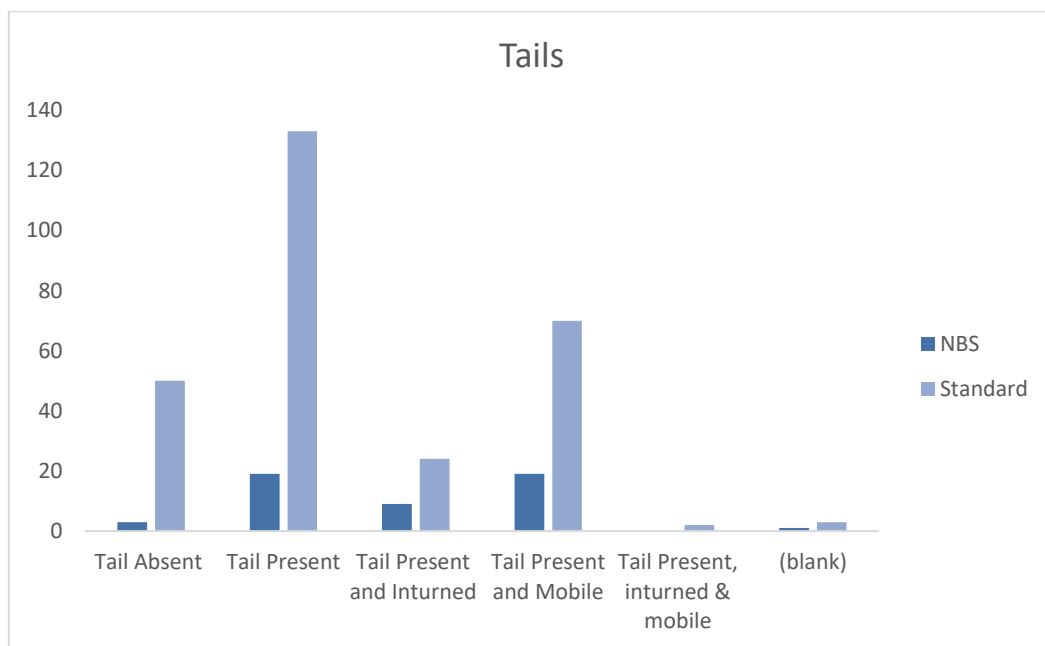
Patella grading is also incorporated into the scheme, using the Putnam Scoring System, which grades a dog's degree of luxation on a scale from 0 to 4.

Patella Grade	Count of standard coloured dogs	Count of NBS dogs
Normal (0/0)	206	39
Grade 1 in one or both legs	52	9
Grade 2 in one or both legs	18	3
Grade 3 in one or both legs	3	0
Not Recorded	3	0



Tails

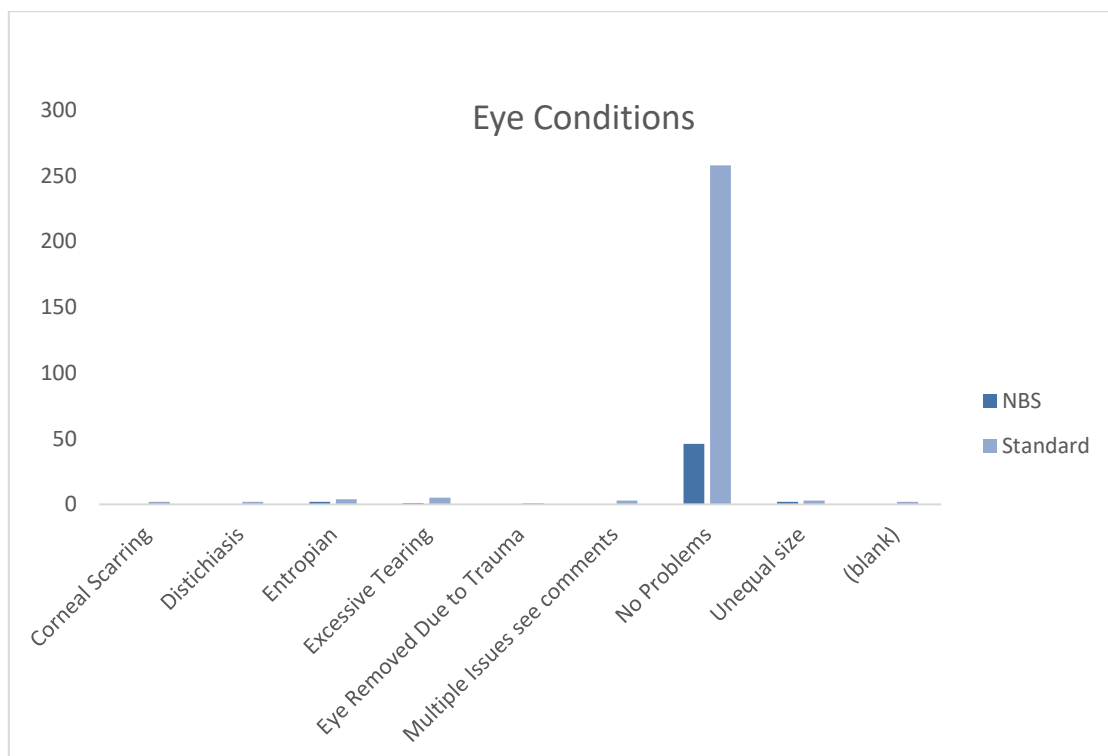
Tails	Count of standard coloured dogs	Count of NBS dogs
Tail Present	133	19
Tail Present and Inturned	26	9
Tail Present & Mobile	70	19
Tail Absent	50	3
Not Recorded	3	1



Eye Observations

A total of 304 dogs (258 standard and 46 NBS) recorded with no eye issues. Eye issues recorded as below.

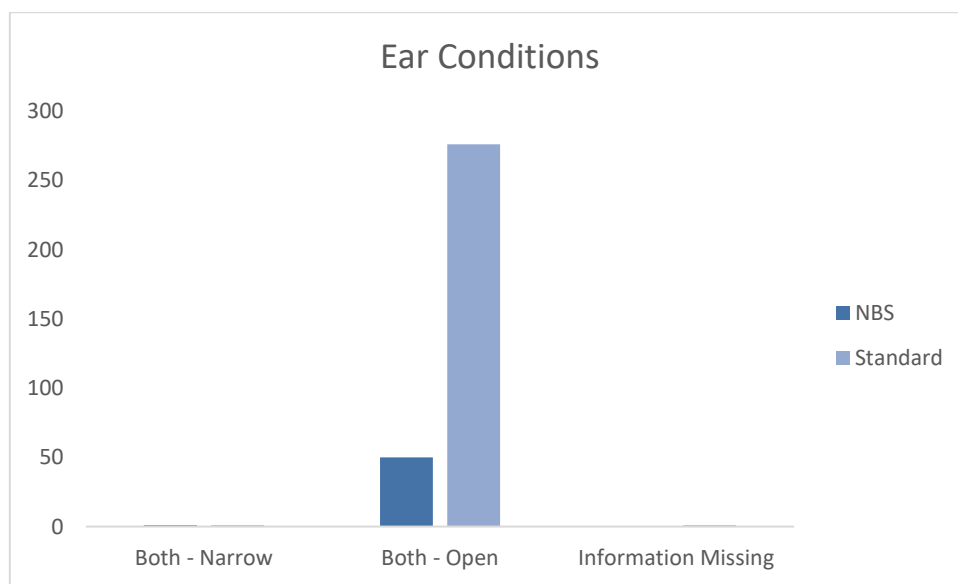
Eye Observation	Count of standard coloured dogs	Count of NBS dogs
Excessive tearing	5	1
Entropion	4	2
Eyes of unequal size	3	2
Distichiasis	0	2
Corneal scarring	0	2
Eye Removed due to Trauma	0	1
Not Recorded/ incomplete information	4	0
Multiple Issues	0	3



Ears

Examination of the ears and ability to hear are tested, as well as the degree of stenosis of the ear canals. All dogs recorded as having hearing established.

Ear Observation	Count of standard coloured dogs	Count of NBS dogs
Both Open	276	26
Both ears narrow	1	1
Not recorded	4	0



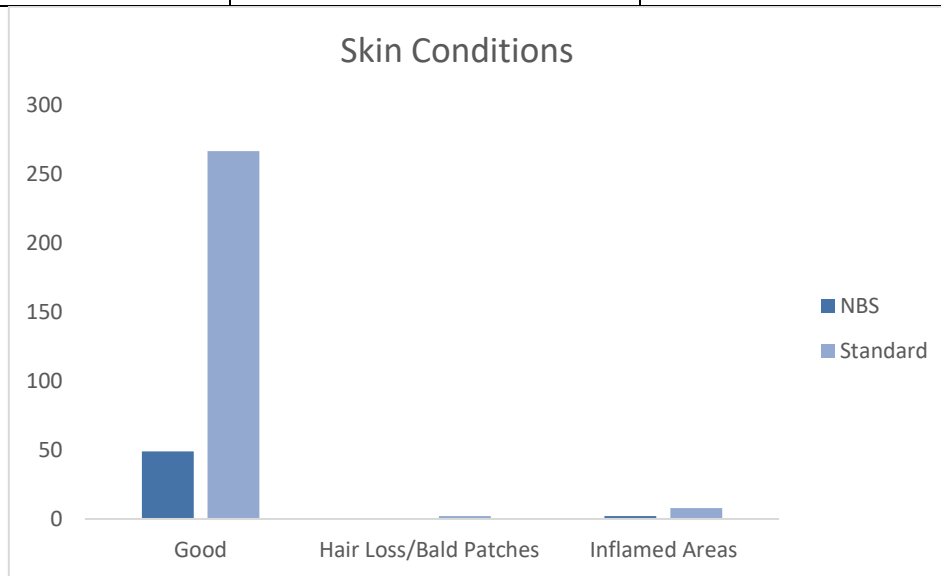
Hearts

With the required heart auscultation, there was 1 dog recorded with a grade 1 murmur. One dog was unable to be assessed. The remaining dogs across all colours were clear of any murmurs.

Skin Observations

The majority of dogs presented no skin issues or external signs of allergies.

Skin	Count of standard coloured dogs	Count of NBS dogs
Good	267	49
Hair Loss/ Bald Patches	2	0
Inflamed Areas	8	2
Not recorded	4	1



Spines

The Basic Health Assessment includes check for Palpable Spinal Abnormalities, there were only two recorded issues both in standard colour dogs with one vet reporting a slight deviation mid thorax area and one reporting a prominent thoracic vertebra.

For the Gold certification a Spinal Xray and Grading is required, there was a lack of formal scores held prior to May 2020. Breed Health Administrator has made requests during 2021/2022 to all owners with Gold Certificates to resubmit their scoring sheets for data collection.

Cervical, Thoracic and Lumbar regions as assessed and each vertebra scored as follows:-

- Zero - . No abnormality
- 1 - Partially wedged vertebra
- 2 - Fully wedged vertebra
- 3 - Double wedged (butterfly) vertebra

Statistics have now been received for a total of 31 dogs (30 Standard and 1 NBS).

Total Score and total number of abnormalities have been recorded as follows: -

Spines		Total Spine Score	TOTAL NUMBER OF ABNORMALITIES
	Average	10.68	6.77
	Min	0	0
	Max	21	13
	Median	10	7

Temperament

A total of 7 dogs (4 Standard / 3 NBS) were recorded with signs of aggression during examination. All were recorded with vets' comments reading "fear aggression on exam".

Health Scheme Summary of awards issued during reporting period.

Standard Colours

Conformation of Participation (No RFG) – 19

Bronze - 56

Silver – 201

Gold - 6