

**Fit for the Future:**

**Update March 2009**



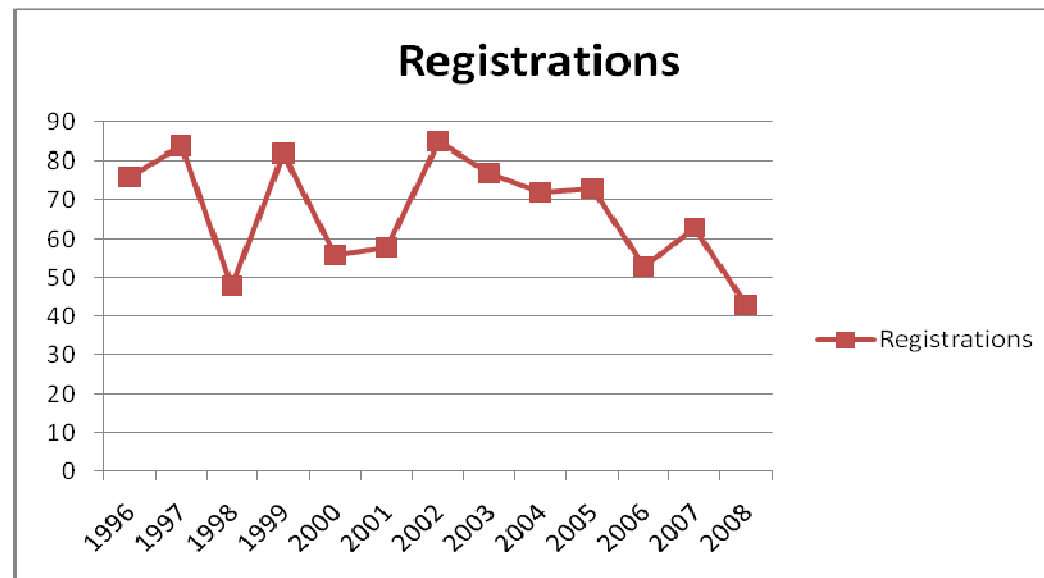


## Statistical Update

In 2008 there were 43 dogs registered with the Kennel Club. Although registered in 2008, three litters bred in 2007 were registered during this year (11 registrations). This shows a return to an overall downward trend and still means we fall far short of the Kennel Club's '300' registrations and therefore define us as 'vulnerable'. We have to go back to 1977 to see a figure lower than this – 20 registrations.

Table 1 – Registrations 1996 - 2008

Year	Number of Registrations	Year	Number of Registrations	Year	Number of Registrations
1996	76	2001	58	2005	73
1997	84	2002	85	2006	53
1998	48	2003	77	2007	63 (includes 1 adult import)
1999	82	2004	72	2008	43
2000	56				

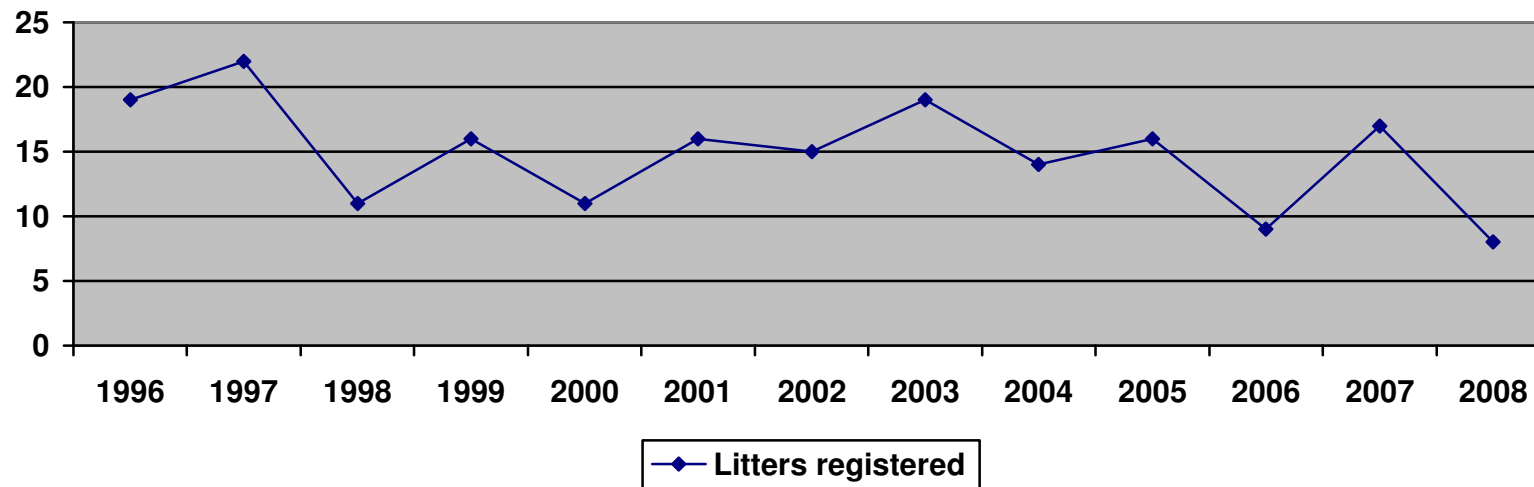


**Table 1 Litters bred 1996 – 2008 and subsequently registered**

There were 8 litters bred during 2008 which were registered at the Kennel Club. Because a number of puppies born in 2007 were not registered until 2008, this alters the figures published in last year's Fit for the Future progress report. The table and chart below have been amended to reflect the fact that 2007 saw an additional 3 litters born.

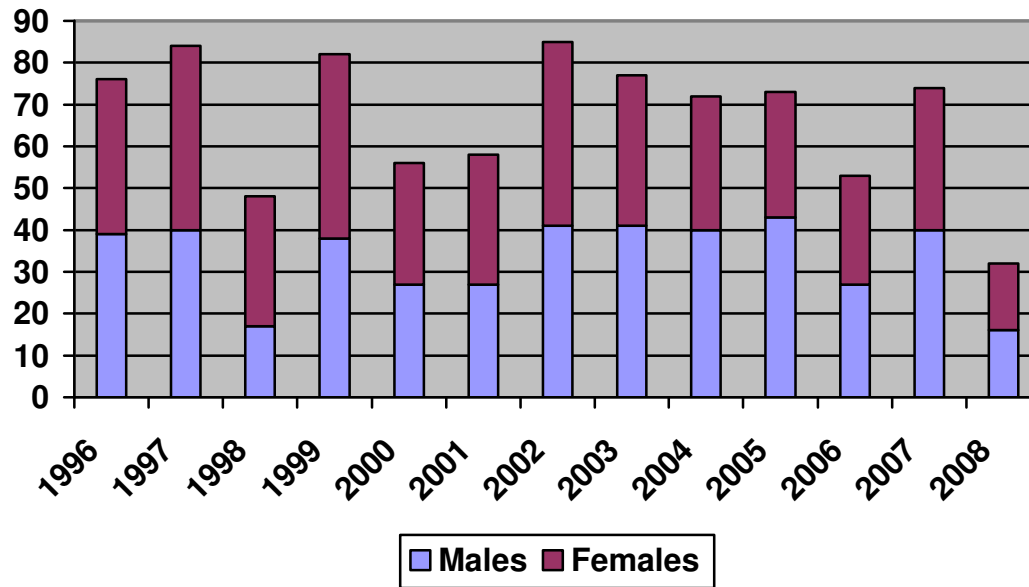
<b>Year</b>	<b>Number of litters bred &amp; registered</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Number of litters bred &amp; registered</b>
1996	19	2003	19
1997	22	2004	14
1998	11	2005	16
1999	16	2006	9
2000	11	2007	17
2001	16	2008	8
2002	15		

Again, this shows a downturn in 2008.



## Size and Gender of Litters

The average size of a registered litter during 2008 was 4. There were 16 males registered and 16 females (chart adjusted for 2007 additions). 20 puppies were tricolour, 18 puppies were sable and white and 5 puppies were blue merle.



## **Stud Dogs**

Looking at the diversity of stud dogs used as reported in last year's registration figures (including the 2007 additions), we see:

<b>Name of Dog</b>	<b>Number of litters registered</b>
Foxearth Finlander of Sturtmoor	3
Londer Look Smart	2
Manordeifi Stormbreaker	1
Norfield Tin Star	1
Ch Moon Walker from Misstoff	1
Freejack First Knight at Norfield	1
Norfield Soul Mate	1
Foxearth Finnish Emblem	1

## **Number of Active Breeders in 2008**

Eight breeders accounted for the registrations in 2008, each registering one litter each except for one breeder who registered 4 litters (2 of which were born in 2007).

## Action Plan Update March 2009

ACTION	PROGRESS TO MARCH 2009	FURTHER ACTION PLANNED
<b>Objective 1: Education</b> <b>We should promote the Smooth Collie as an intelligent, versatile and healthy family pet to the general public. To do this we must:</b>		
Continue to support events such as Discover Dogs, parades at agricultural shows and so on	Discover Dogs Crufts 03.09, Earls Court 11.08 attended	Continue to support these events in 2009/10
Continue to benefit from the publicity gained as a result of affiliation with the British and Irish Dog Breeds Preservation Trust and others	Vulnerable Breeds Parade supported at Earls Court. KC Vulnerable Breeds exhibition at The Kennel Club supported.	Opportunities to be taken as and when identified
Continue to encourage owners of other breeds/judges to attend our breed specific seminars	A2 assessment day held April 08	Beginner judges' training day planned for October 09
Continue to encourage exhibitors to support a wide range of shows and events such as obedience and agility and social events	This aspect of the sport continues to be promoted through the Smooth Look, the website and breed notes	This aspect to be included in the Ada Bishop Memorial Fun Day (2009)
Advertise the breed and Club in appropriate publications	New leaflet distributed at Earls Court, Crufts and via Welcome Packs	To be considered by committee as opportunities arise
Maintain a presence on the internet	Website development limited in 2008	Website to be updated when time allows in 2009
Encourage responsible dog ownership amongst Smooth owners	This aspect continues to be promoted through the Smooth Look, the website and breed notes	Continue to promote through the Smooth Look, the website, and the Ada Bishop Memorial Fun Day (2009)
Take advantage of the breed's natural aptitude for companionship with people through opportunities such as PAT dog schemes, visits to schools with local education authorities etc	This aspect continues to be promoted through the Smooth Look, the website and breed notes	Continue to promote through the Smooth Look, the website, and the Ada Bishop Memorial Fun Day (2009)

ACTION	PROGRESS TO MARCH 2009	FURTHER ACTION PLANNED
<b>Objective 2: Increase breeding stock</b> <b>Our restricted gene pool means that any inherited disease that goes undiagnosed will have devastating repercussions on the state of the Smooth Collie. We must strive to have sufficient healthy breeding stock to ensure that the breed continues into the future. To do this we must:</b>		
Encourage breeders to maintain contact with pet owners	Welcome Packs take-up slow	Continue to promote Welcome Packs and sell at below cost price to encourage membership take up
Encourage breeders to not endorse registrations as 'cannot be bred from' unless absolutely necessary		Smooth Look article planned
Dissuade owners from spaying/neutering stock unless there is a clinical reason for doing so		This aspect to be explored further through the Smooth Look
Welcome the importation of stock from abroad to promote genetic diversity		
Promote the use of a wide range of stud dogs to prevent 'genetic bottlenecks'	New Stud Book available	Smooth Look article planned
Assist owners and breeders to be well informed by promoting and assisting in the study of pedigrees		Further work to be explored
Maintain breed records and widely report trends in registrations, litters bred etc annually through the Smooth Look	Statistics routinely reported in Smooth Look and annually at AGM	
Balance the desire to breed only from the best (for the show ring) with the need to foster a long term view of health and viability		Smooth Look article planned
Encourage usage of health screening schemes such as eye testing, hip dysplasia	Health Survey undertaken winter 2008/09	Analysis to be published Summer edition Smooth Look

ACTION	PROGRESS TO MARCH 2009	FURTHER ACTION PLANNED
scoring and others as appropriate		
Be honest, open and supportive about health issues	This aspect continues to be promoted through the Smooth Look	Continue to promote through Smooth Look
Act swiftly to alert people to concerns about numbers or health issues	Health Survey undertaken winter 2008/09	Analysis to be published Summer edition Smooth Look

ACTION	PROGRESS TO MARCH 2009	FURTHER ACTION PLANNED
<b>Objective 3: Keeping in Touch</b> <b>To increase the numbers of Smooth Collies, we need to find more people who are willing to own Smooth Collies and keep in touch with breeders and the Club. To do this we must:</b>		
Develop and continue a programme of education as outlined above	See above	
Encourage pet owners to stay in touch with breeders	Welcome Packs being distributed	Effectiveness to be monitored through take up
Provide breeders with information packs about the Club and the breed to give to pet owners which will also offer one year's subsidised club membership for pet owners	Welcome Packs being distributed	Effectiveness to be monitored through take up
Maintain a club database of all owners for the purposes of keeping in touch ( <i>and in compliance with data protection guidance</i> )	Database in operation	Maintain database
Continue to invest in the Smooth Look as a way of keeping in touch with members	Smooth Look continues to be a priority for the Club	Ensure a broad spread of articles etc to maintain general interest
Encourage non- show owners to stay in touch with the Club by arranging social events such as fun days and assessments at venues around the country to encourage take up	Ada Bishop Memorial Fun Day planned August 09	Success of day to be reviewed

## **Suggested Priorities April 2009 – March 2010**

- Basic hands-on and beginner judges Day planned October 2009
- Analysis of health survey and action arising
- Continue to run website
- Further consideration to be given to assisting owners and breeders to be well informed by promoting and assisting in the study of pedigrees
- Research and Smooth Look article(s) on the impact on a vulnerable breed of
  - registration endorsement
  - spaying/neutering stock, and
  - balancing the desire to breed only from the best (for the show ring) with the need to foster a long term view of health and viability
- Research and Smooth Look article(s) on the use of a wide range of stud dogs to prevent 'genetic bottlenecks'

If you would like to comment on this Action Plan or comment on our work programme, please write to:

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