

Annual Health Report 2021-2022

On Behalf of the UK Japanese Shiba Inu Breed Clubs

Introduction

The annual health report is a crucial resource for those involved in the breed. It is created annually to provide an update on the efforts and progress made in the past year to improve the health of the shiba. The report covers a wide range of topics, including disease prevention and treatment, health screenings, and genetic research. The goal is to give breeders, owners, and professionals a comprehensive overview of the current state of health and the work that is being done to improve it.

However, despite the generally fit and healthy population, it's important not to become complacent. As stewards of the breed, it's our responsibility to ensure that future generations of shibas remain healthy and free from preventable diseases. This report also serves as a reminder of that responsibility we all hold and the need to continue our efforts in promoting and preserving the health of this wonderful breed. It's our hope that this report will encourage everyone involved in the shiba community to take an active role in promoting and maintaining the health of these dogs for many years to come.

Breed Health Conservation Plan (BHCP)

The Breed Health Conservation Plan (BHCP) for the Japanese Shiba Inu, published in 2021, outlines the main priorities, breed club expectations, and actions that the Kennel Club plans to take in order to support the breed. The three main priorities identified in the BHCP are Glaucoma, Gangliosidosis 1 (GM1)/Gangliosidosis 2 (GM2), and breed engagement.

To address these priorities, the BHCP outlines the breed club expectations, which include encouraging eye testing prior to breeding, promoting a new health website to breeders and owners, monitoring the breed's health via surveys and breeder reports, and monitoring the use of popular sires and raising awareness of the importance of genetic diversity when breeding.

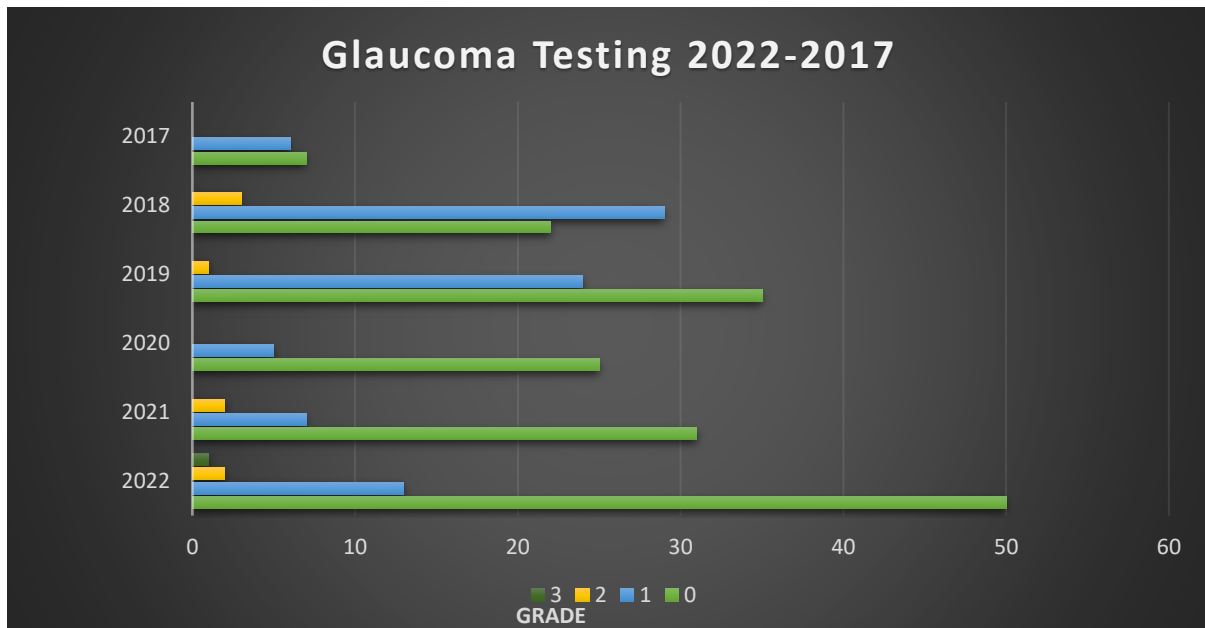
The Kennel Club also has several planned actions to support the breed. One such action was to publicise and advertise a breed health survey through various channels including the Kennel Club Gazette, and direct emails sent to owners. This resulted in over 600 responses and helped to provide valuable insight into the current health status of the breed. The Kennel Club will continue to take action to support the breed, including advertising the breed's health website, producing a piece on the importance of considering genetic diversity and popular sires when breeding, and updating the breed's population analysis. These actions aim to support the efforts of the breed clubs and help ensure the health and well-being of the Japanese Shiba Inu breed for generations to come.

Breed Surveillance Survey

The success of the Breed Health Surveillance Survey, which resulted in over 600 individual responses, is a significant accomplishment in terms of understanding the current state of health within the Japanese Shiba Inu breed. The data collected from this survey is currently undergoing cleansing and interpretation, with a report set to be released later in 2023. This report will provide valuable insights into the most pressing health concerns affecting the breed, allowing the relevant organizations to focus their efforts on addressing these issues.

In addition to the Breed Health Surveillance Survey, Dr. Joanna Ilska and Poppy Ryan are working on developing new population analyses for every Kennel Club recognized breed. This effort will further enhance the understanding of the breed's health status and any potential genetic diversity concerns. The combination of the Breed Health Surveillance Survey report and the new population analyses will provide a comprehensive overview of the breed, allowing for informed decision-making and a targeted approach to addressing any health issues that may arise. This will be crucial in ensuring the ongoing health and well-being of the Japanese Shiba Inu breed.

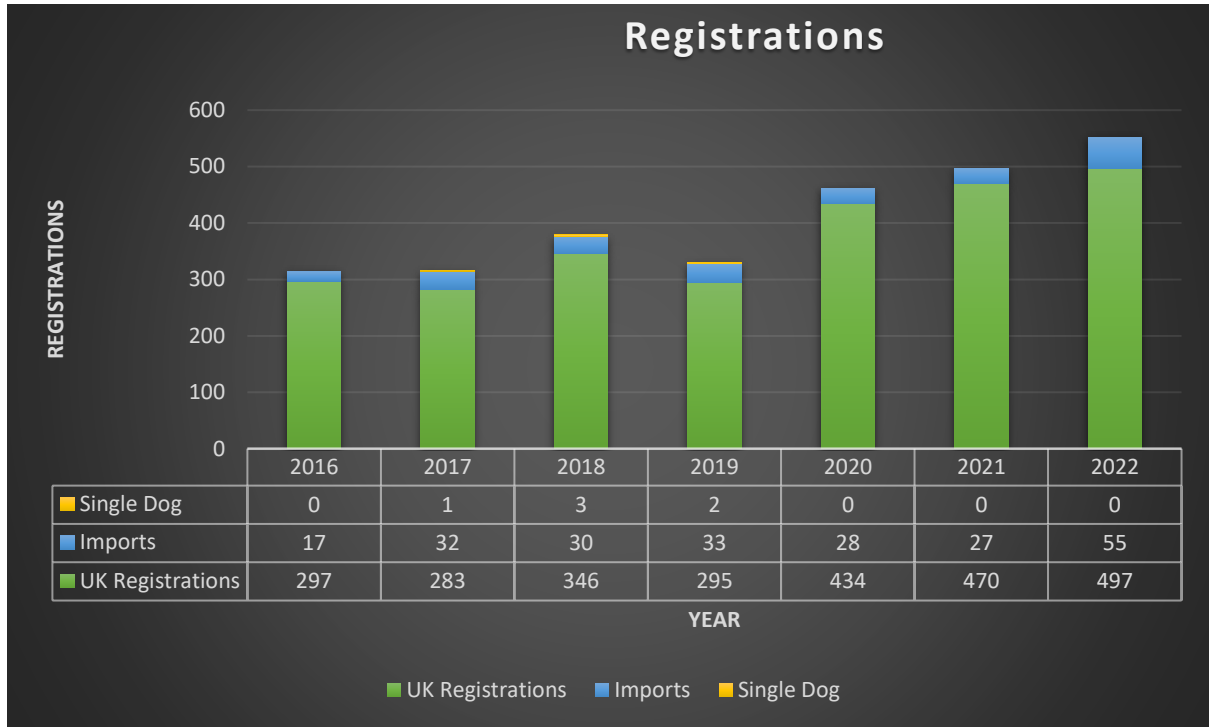
Glaucoma Test Results



This table shows the number of cases for each grade of Glaucoma for each year from 2017 to 2023. The grades range from 0 to 3, with 0 being not affected and 3 being the most severe. The first recorded grade 3 was presented in 2022. There have been no cases scoring a 3 recorded in the previous years, from the new scheme's inception in 2017 highlighting the need for more frequent testing. We are still awaiting a DNA test for glaucoma, once this is available commercially for our breed, we can move away from a subjective testing method.

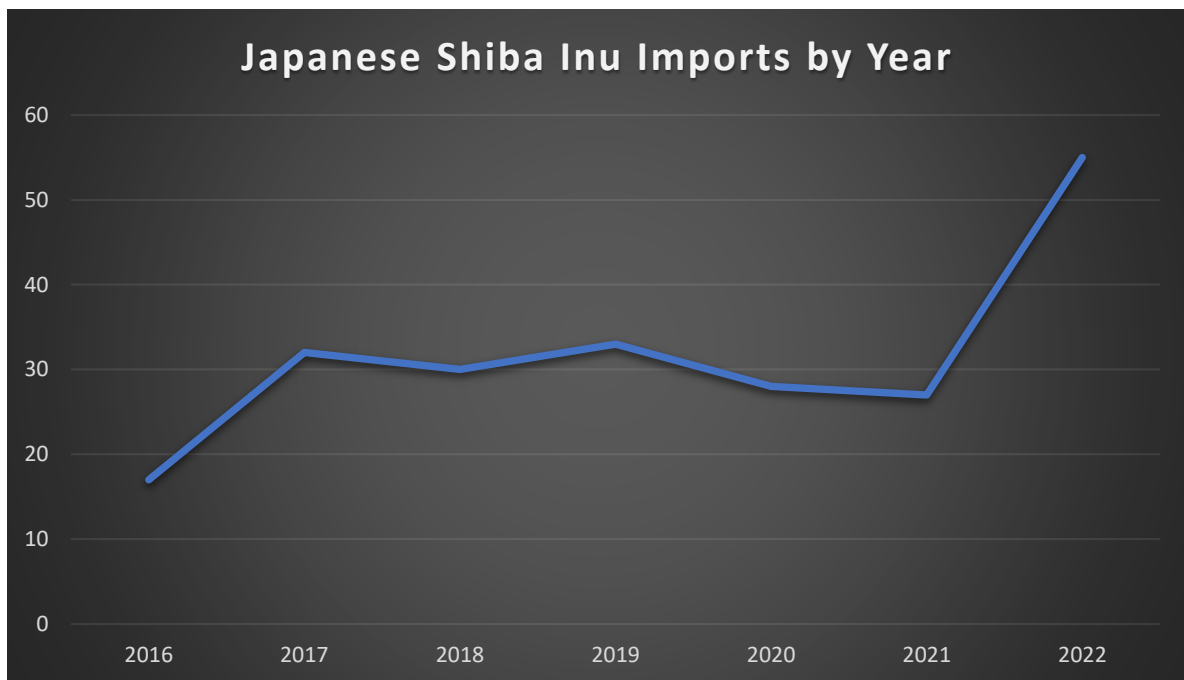
Registration Data

Breed Record Supplement



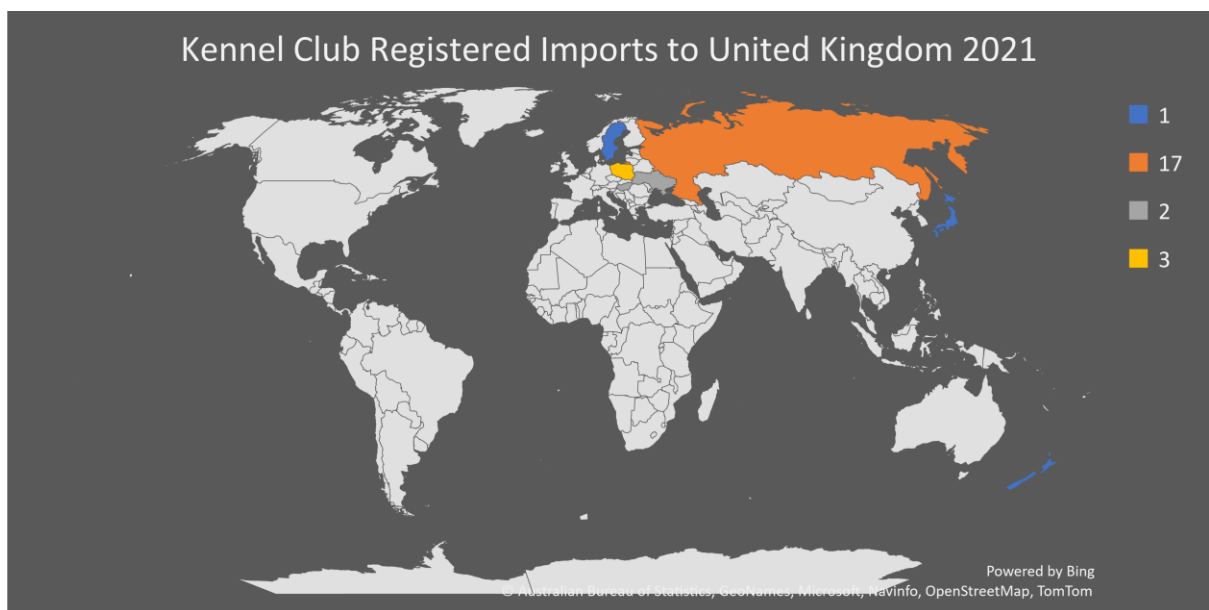
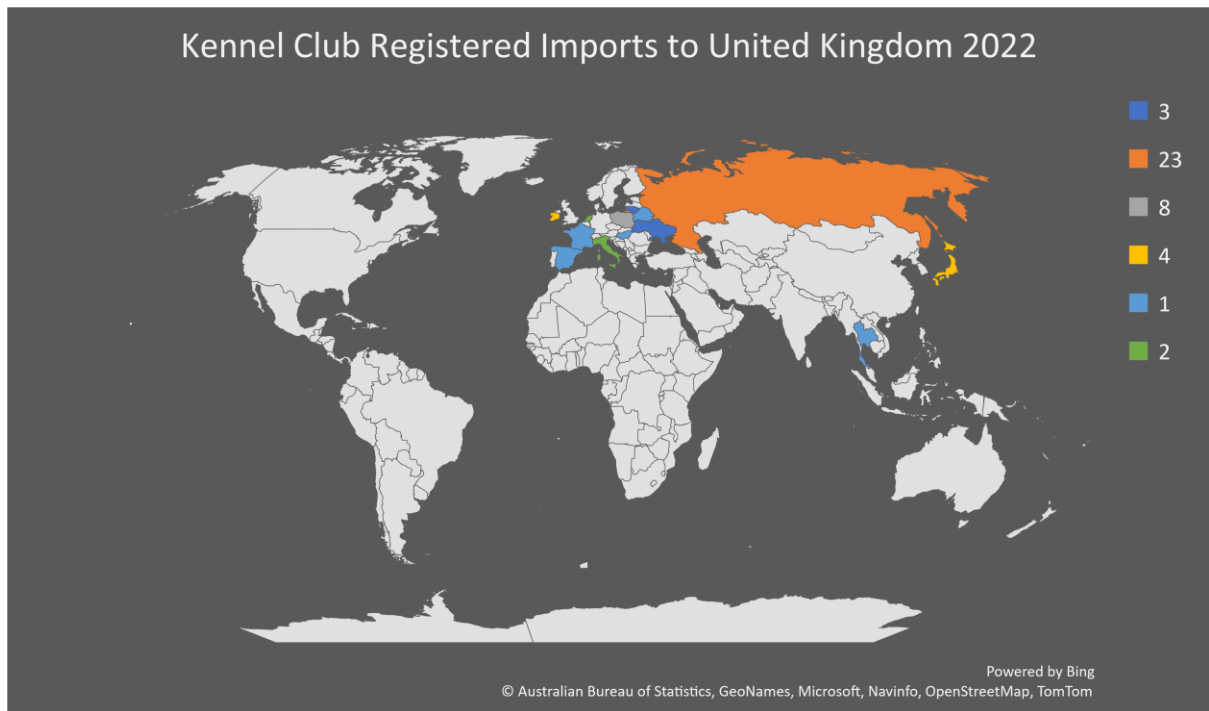
Above is a graph detailing the registration data between 2016-2022. It's important to note that the data in 2022 only covers January to September, and therefore the total number of registrations for the year is not yet complete. Given the current trend of increasing registrations, it is expected that the total number of registrations for 2022 will be much higher than what is currently shown in the table. This can be attributed to various factors, such as a growing interest in dog ownership, the increasing popularity of the breed and improved accessibility to imported dogs. As a result, the final registration data for 2022 could potentially show a significant increase compared to previous years.

Import Data



This graph provides data on the number of imported dogs in each year from 2016 to 2022. Over the seven-year period, the number of imported dogs varied from year to year. In 2016, 17 dogs were imported, which was the lowest number of imported dogs over the seven-year period. The number of imported dogs increased in the following year, with 32 dogs being imported in 2017. This was an increase of 88.24% from the previous year. In 2018, the number of imported dogs decreased slightly to 30, but in the following year, it increased again to 33.

In 2020 and 2021, the number of imported dogs decreased again, with 28 and 27 dogs being imported, respectively. This represents a decrease of 15.15% and 18.18% from 2019, respectively. Likely related to restricted movement of animals during the COVID pandemic. In 2022, the number of imported dogs increased dramatically to 55, which was the highest number of imported dogs over the seven-year period. This represents an increase of 104.55% from the previous year and a 218.75% increase from 2016.



The high number of imported dogs from Russia and Poland in both 2021 and 2022 may have an impact on genetic diversity among the imported dog population. A high number of imported dogs from a limited number of countries can lead to a reduction in genetic diversity, as the same genetic traits may be overrepresented in the imported dog population. This can result in a higher likelihood of genetic disorders or other health issues within the imported dog population.

However, it is important to note that a diverse gene pool can also bring its own set of challenges, such as a higher likelihood of the presence of genetic disorders from different populations. It is crucial to assess the health and genetic backgrounds of the imported dogs to ensure that they are free of genetic disorders and diseases before they are introduced into a new population. It is important to carefully consider the potential effects of such imports. We recommended careful monitoring of the genetic background and advise breeders implement measures to maintain a healthy and diverse gene pool, where possible.

For this reason, we recommend all imported lines are DNA tested for Gangliosidosis. This disorder is caused by a deficiency in an enzyme that breaks down a type of fat called ganglioside, and can lead to serious health issues, including neurological problems and death.

DNA screening for Gangliosidosis is a straightforward process that can be performed to ensure that they are not carriers of the disorder. By screening for Gangliosidosis, it is possible to prevent the introduction of this disorder into the UK population.

Progress is being made to make the GM1/GM2 test a recommended health test. By recording the results of this test with The Kennel Club, it will be possible to track the spread of the disorder and take action to prevent it from becoming a widespread problem. Additionally, it will encourage breeders to be more diligent in their breeding practices, and to use only dogs that are free from this disorder in their breeding programs. This should also raise awareness of this genetic disorder and the importance of DNA screening in preventing its spread.

Summary

The success of the Breed Health Surveillance Survey, which resulted in over 600 responses, is a significant accomplishment in terms of understanding the current state of health within the breed. The combination of the Breed Health Surveillance Survey report and the new population analysis from The Kennel Club will provide a comprehensive overview and allow for informed decision-making and a targeted approach to addressing health issues.

Our two breed clubs are important central repositories for health information, being positioned between owners and breeders. By promoting and supporting responsible breeding practices, breed clubs can help ensure the long-term health and viability of their breed and contribute to the overall health and well-being of all dogs. Both breed clubs have been advised of the health reporting functions on the health website, and we appreciate their support in directing owners and breeders to the reporting functionality available that is currently underutilised.

Michael Needs

Japanese Shiba Inu Breed Health Coordinator

Tel: 07852932789 Email: michael@nizu.co.uk