



## WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT NECROPSIES

Because necropsy reports can provide invaluable information that can help improve the health of a breed, Cyrus and Kim Daboo established the Piper Fund in 2006 to encourage Clumber owners to have them performed when they lose a beloved companion. Such a loss is difficult enough to deal with, so this document aims at familiarizing you with the procedure before it is time to act.

A necropsy is the examination of an animal's body after death to determine the cause of death. The procedure is not much different than a surgery: the pet's body is surgically opened, and tissues are examined with the naked eye, as well as microscopically via the gathering of biopsy specimens.

Some fear their animal's body will be treated casually. On the contrary: veterinarians are very respectful of these patients as they value the opportunity they get to potentially finalize a diagnosis and to gather additional information only a post mortem examination can provide. What they learn from one animal's unfortunate death may directly benefit some of their other patients; it can help them prevent further suffering and losses.

Many veterinarians do necropsies at their practice; others will send the animal to the nearest veterinary school. Prices will no doubt vary from practice to practice, but a range between \$150 to \$300 should not surprise you. Be aware that time is of the essence: if you are not able to get your Clumber's body to the vet's immediately, make sure it is kept chilled, but not frozen. It can only be kept chilled for a maximum of three days.

When the cause of death is suspected ahead of time, only the affected organ will be tested, but in other cases various organs can be analyzed. Please ensure you should ask your veterinarian to perform two things:

1. First, to sample clearly affected organs, or, if a cause of death is not obvious, to sample apparently normal organs (liver, spleen, heart, lungs, kidneys etc...)
2. Second, to collect, freeze and pack in ice a sample of spleen or tongue for DNA analysis. This is not a typical part of most post mortems, so be sure to ask it be done.

The necropsy report and tissue sample collected for DNA analysis must to be sent to **Liz Hansen, Animal Molecular Genetics Lab 321, Conway Hall, University of Missouri, Columbia, MO-65211**. The DNA information will be included in the CSCA DNA Bank. Be assured that Dr. Hansen will treat necropsy reports with outmost confidentiality.

In order to determine future health research priorities, data from necropsies, from companions and breeding stock, from affected and apparently healthy Clumbers, is imperative. As guardians of this breed, the onus is on each one of us to make necropsies part of how we care for Clumbers. Please, be part of a healthy future for all Clumbers.