

Report from the Kennel Club/
British Small Animal Veterinary Association
Scientific Committee

Summary results of the
Purebred Dog Health Survey
for Australian Terriers

Warning: The results of this survey and particularly the breed-specific analyses should be interpreted with caution. The overall response rate was only 24% with breed-specific response rates from 4.5% to 64.7%.

Australian Terriers

A total of 74 forms were sent out and 12 were returned, representing 28 live dogs. This breed had a 16.2 % response rate (12/74) and it represented 0.09% of all returns (12/13,741).

Mortality data

A total of 11 deaths were reported and this represents 0.07 % of all deaths reported in the survey (11/15,881). The median age at death for Australian Terriers was 12 years and 1 month (min = 3 years and 11 months, max = 15 years) and this was higher than the overall median of 11 years and 3 months (Figure 1). Table 1 shows the causes of death for Australian Terriers. Age at death is presented for the most common causes of death (Figure 2).

Table 1. Causes of death by organ system/category for Australian Terriers.

Cause of death	No. of deaths	% of deaths	Most common specific causes in descending order
1 Old age	5	45.5	
2 Endocrine	3	27.3	Diabetes mellitus
3 Cancer	2	18.2	
4 Trauma	1	9.1	Attacked by dog
Total	11	100.0	

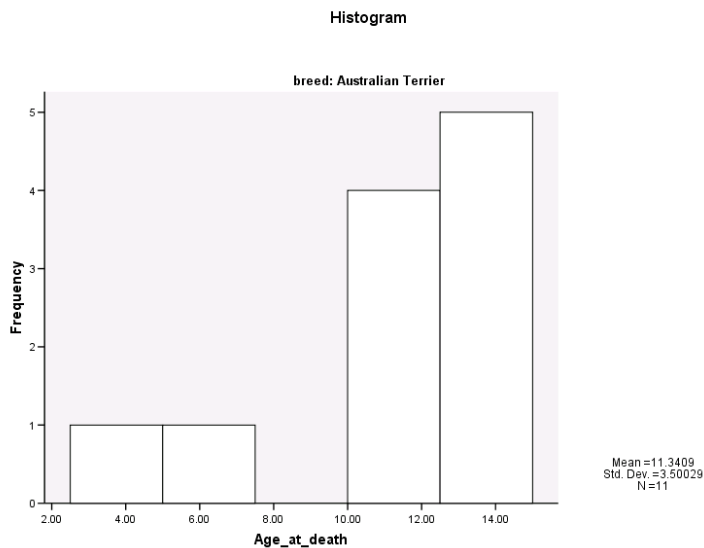


Figure 1. Histogram showing the frequency (as number of dogs) of age at death (in years) for the 11 Australian Terrier deaths with age at death reported.

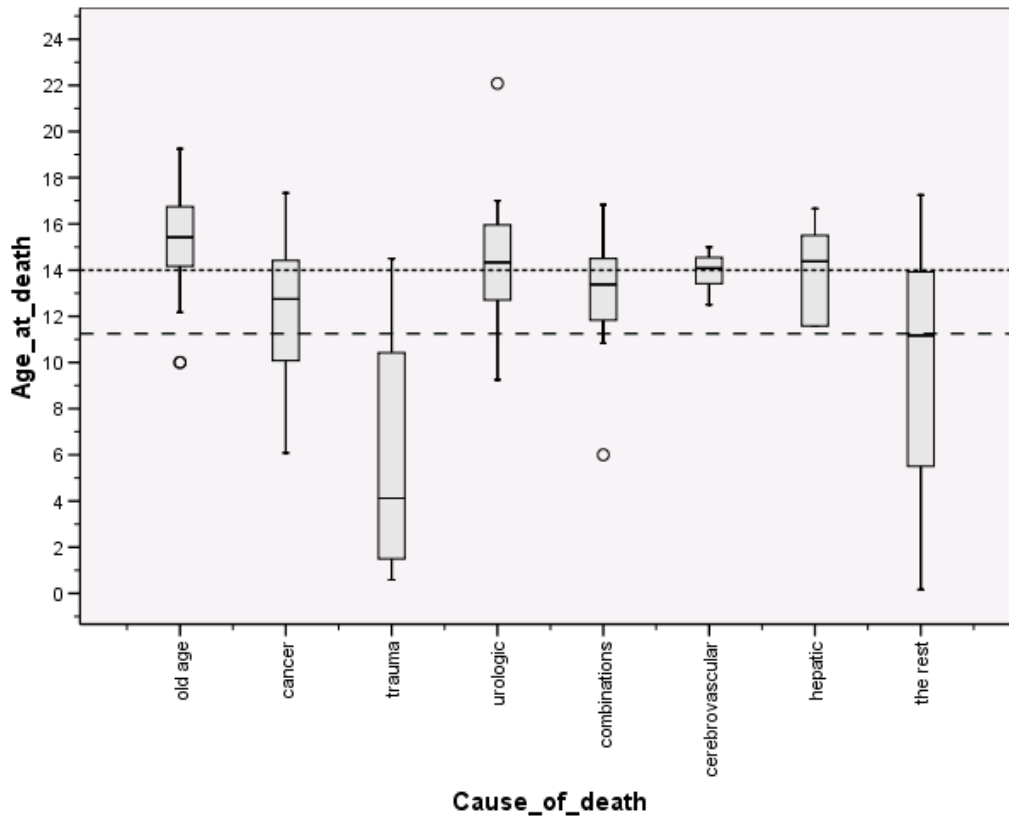


Figure 2. Box and whisker plot of age at death in years for the most common causes of death in Australian Terriers (N=11). The dashed line (---) is the overall median age at death for all dogs in the survey and the dotted line (----) is the overall median age of death for Australian Terriers. The solid line within each grey box represents the median age at death from the condition.

Morbidity data

The median current age of the 28 live dogs with a reported age was 5 years and 10 months (min=6 months, max=12 years, Figure 3). Health information was reported for 28 live dogs of which 19 (68%) were healthy and 9 (32%) had at least one reported health condition, resulting in a total of 12 reported conditions with a median of 1 condition/dog (min=1, max=3).

The median current age of all healthy dogs with a reported age (N=19) was 5 years and 1 month (min=6 months, max=10 years and 8 months). The distribution of gender and neuter status is shown in Table 2.

The median current age of all dogs with one or more disease conditions and a reported age (N=9) was 6 years (min=1 year, max=12 years). The median age at diagnosis for all disease occurrences with a reported age at diagnosis (N=11) was 3 years (min= 9 months, max= 6 years, Figure 4). Table 3 shows the disease conditions for Australian Terriers. Age at diagnosis is presented for the most common disease conditions (Figure 5).

Table 2. Distribution of gender and neuter status for 28 Australian Terriers with reported gender and neuter status.

Gender	Neuter status		Totals
	Intact	Neutered	
Female	15	1	16 (57%)
Male	11	1	12 (43%)
Totals	26 (93%)	2 (7%)	28 (100%)

There was no association between gender and neuter status (P=0.8322).

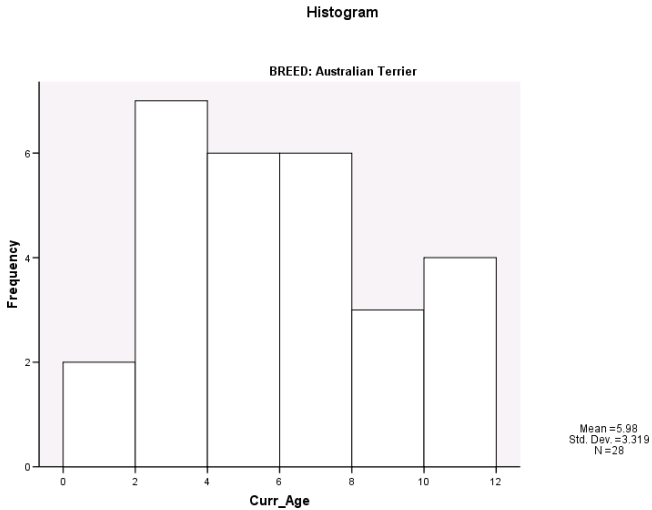


Figure 3. Histogram showing frequency of current age in years for the 28 live Australian Terriers with age reported.

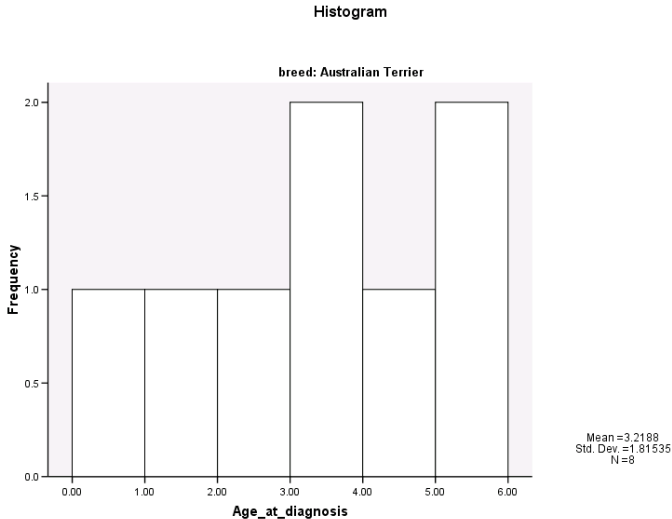


Figure 4. Histogram showing frequency of age at diagnosis for the 8 Australian Terriers with one or more disease conditions, using the youngest age at which a disease condition was first reported for those dogs with more than one disease condition or episode.

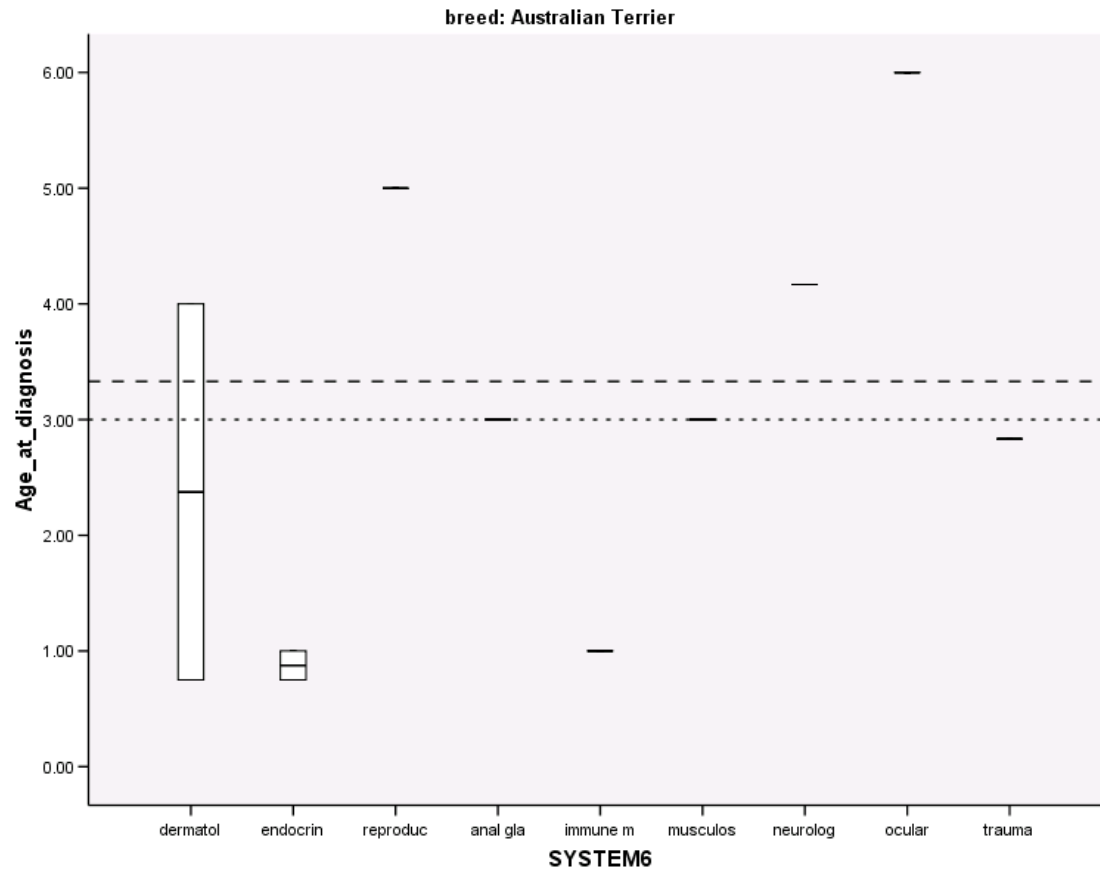


Figure 5. Box and whisker plot of age at diagnosis in years for the most common disease conditions in descending order for Australian Terriers (N=12 conditions with age reported). The dashed line (---) is the overall median age at diagnosis for all dogs in the survey and the dotted line (----) is the overall median age at diagnosis for Australian Terriers. The solid line within each grey box represents the median age at diagnosis from the condition. The grey box represents 50% of the dogs and the whiskers represent 95% of the dogs for each condition. The circles (o) represent possible outliers and the asterisks (*) represent extreme outliers.

Table 3. Disease conditions by organ system/category for Australian Terriers.

Disease condition	All conditions		Prevalence	Most common specific conditions in descending order
	N	%	%	
1 Dermatologic	2	16.7	7.14	Dermatitis, hair loss
2 Endocrine	2	16.7	7.14	Hair loss undiagnosed
3 Reproductive	2	16.7	7.14	Infertility, false pregnancy
4 Anal gland	1	8.3	3.57	Anal sacculitis (anal gland impaction or infection or removal)
5 Immune mediated	1	8.3	3.57	Allergy to wheat products (gluten-sensitive enteropathy)
6 Musculoskeletal	1	8.3	3.57	Cruciate ligament rupture
7 Neurologic	1	8.3	3.57	Seizures or fits or epilepsy idiopathic
8 Ocular	1	8.3	3.57	KCS (keratoconjunctivitis sicca or dry eye)
9 Trauma	1	8.3	3.57	Spine
Total	12	100.0	42.86	

Dermatologic: dermatitis=undiagnosed skin irritation or scratching or itchy skin or pruritis