

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

Summary results of the
Purebred Dog Health Survey
for Boston 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%.

Boston Terriers

A total of 110 forms were sent out and 25 were returned, representing 65 live dogs. This breed had a 22.7 % response rate (25/110) and it represented 0.18% of all returns (25/13,741).

Mortality data

A total of 42 deaths were reported and this represents 0.26 % of all deaths reported in the survey (42/15,881). The median age at death for Boston Terriers was 10 years and 11 months (min = 5 years and 2 months, max = 15 years and 9 months) and this was lower than the overall median of 11 years and 3 months (Figure 1). Table 1 shows the causes of death for Boston 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 Boston Terriers.

Cause of death	No. of deaths	% of deaths	Most common specific causes in descending order
1 Old age	12	28.6	Old age
2 Cardiac	8	19.0	Heart disease unspecified; heart attack; heart failure
3 Cancer	7	16.7	Brain tumour
4 Respiratory	5	11.9	Respiratory failure; unspecified
5 Neurologic	4	9.5	Meningitis; seizures
6 Endocrine	2	4.8	Addison's disease; Cushings or hyperadrenocorticism
7 Collapse	1	2.4	
8 Combinations	1	2.4	
9 Other	1	2.4	Uncodeable
10 Reproductive	1	2.4	Prostatic disease
Total	42	100.0	

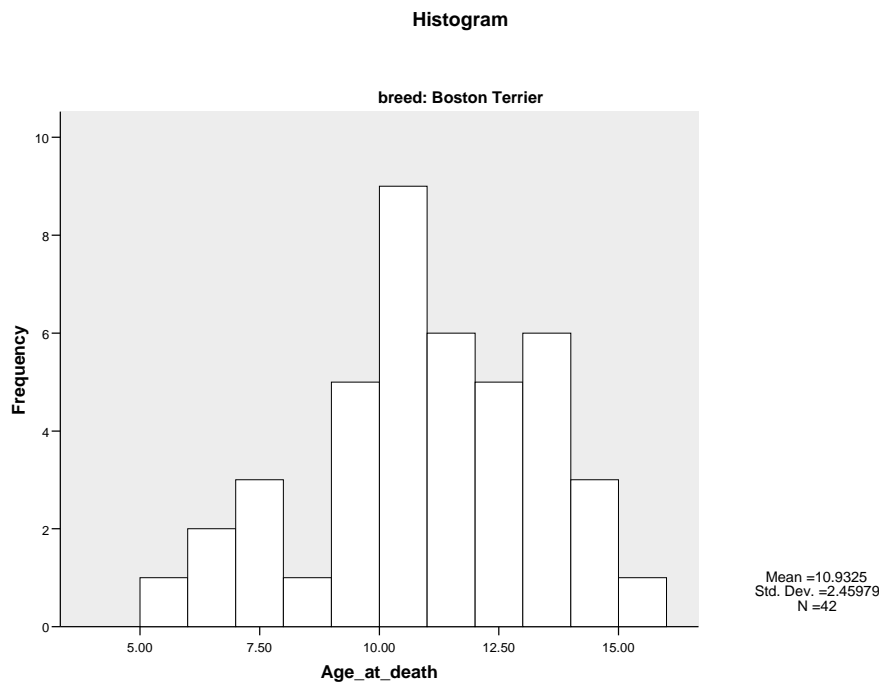


Figure 1. Histogram showing the frequency (as number of dogs) of age at death (in years) for the 42 Boston Terrier deaths with age at death reported.

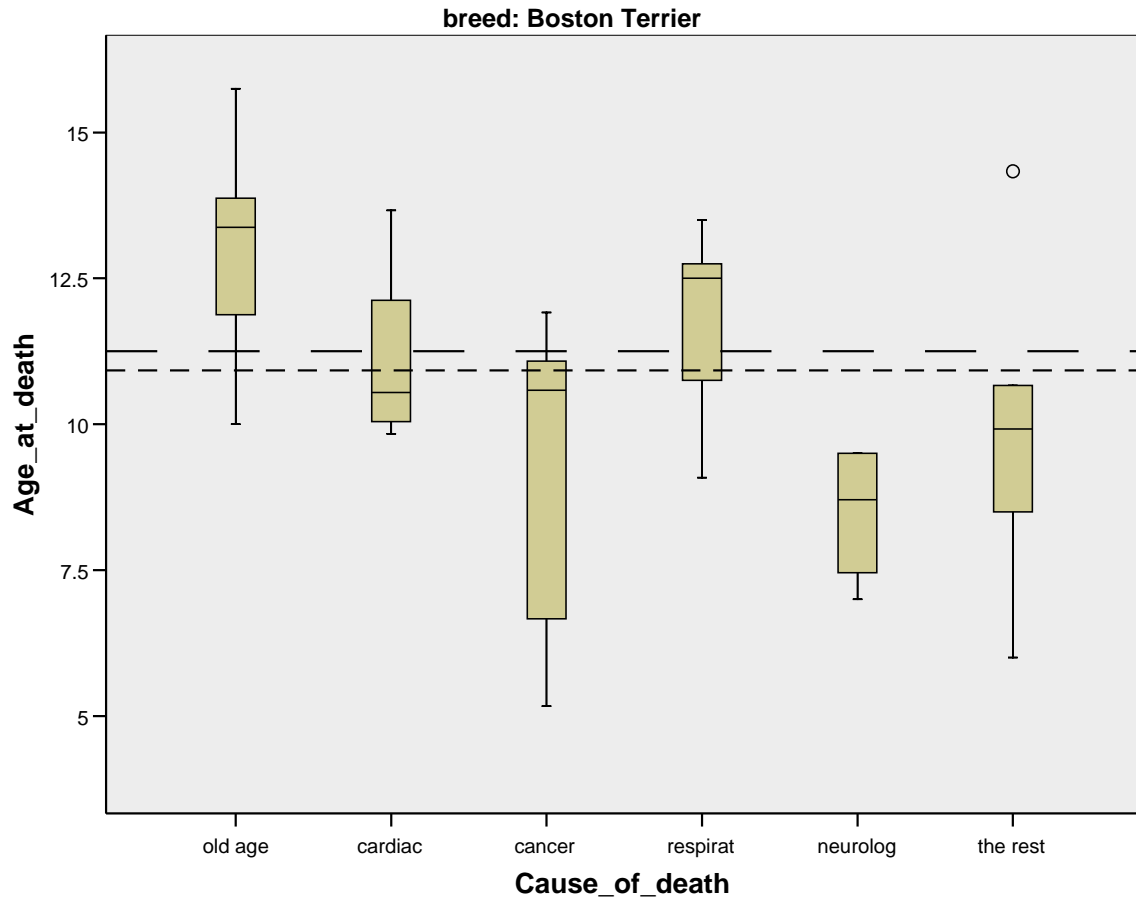


Figure 2. Box and whisker plot of age at death in years for the most common causes of death in Boston Terriers (N=42). The dashed line (---) is the overall median age at death for all dogs in the survey and the dotted line (----) is the overall median age of death for Boston Terriers. The solid line within each grey box represents the median age at death from the condition.

Morbidity data

The median current age of the 65 live dogs with a reported age was 5 years (min=4 months, max=12 years and 2 months, Figure 3). Health information was reported for 65 live dogs of which 46 (71%) were healthy and 19 (29%) had at least one reported health condition, resulting in a total of 37 reported conditions with a median of 1 condition/dog (min=1, max=4).

The median current age of all healthy dogs with a reported age (N=46) was 3 years and 7 months (min=4 months, max=12 years and 2 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=19) was 5 years and 9 months (min=2 years and 6 months, max=11 years and 8 months). The median age at diagnosis for all disease occurrences with a reported age at diagnosis (N=34) was 3 years and 11 months (min= 3 months, max= 11 years and 4 months, Figure 4). Table 3 shows the disease conditions for Boston Terriers. Age at diagnosis is presented for the most common disease conditions (Figure 5).

Table 2. Distribution of gender and neuter status for 65 Boston Terriers with reported gender and neuter status.

Gender	Neuter status		Totals
	Intact	Neutered	
Female	30	10	40 (62%)
Male	17	8	25 (38%)
Totals	47 (72%)	18 (28%)	65 (100%)

There was no association between gender and neuter status (P=0.5395).

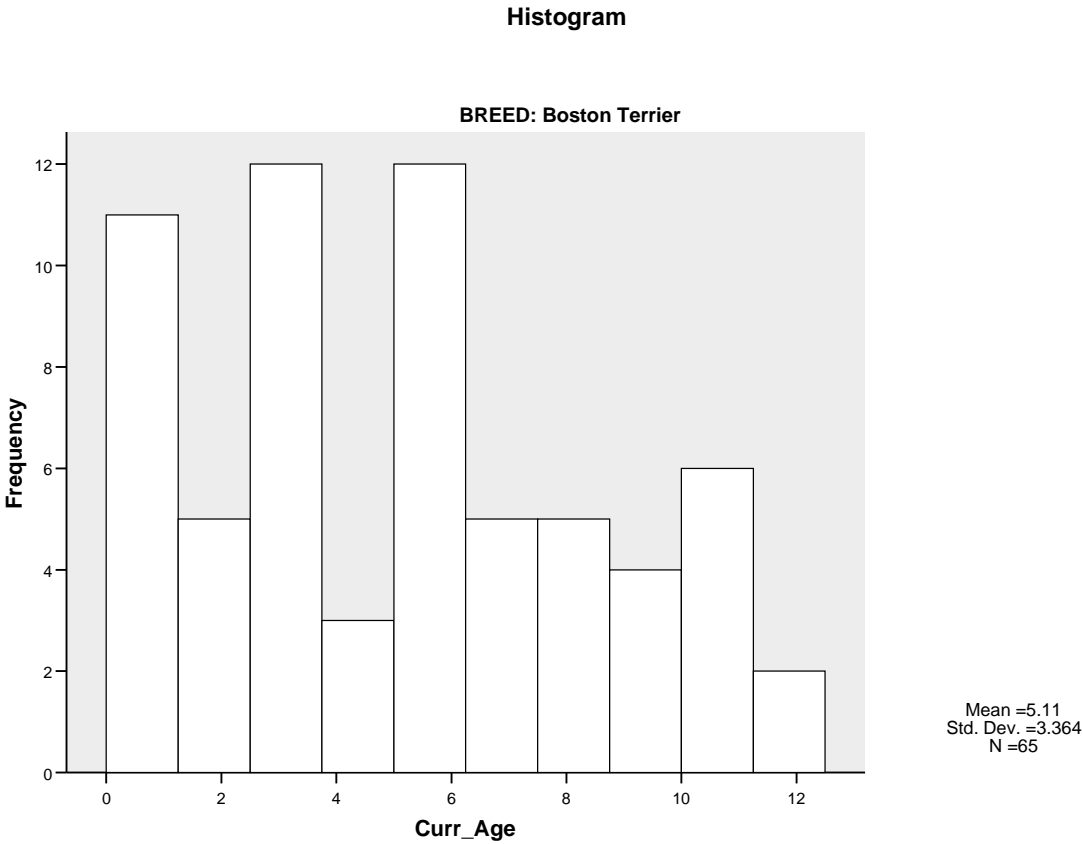


Figure 3. Histogram showing frequency of current age in years for the 65 live Boston Terriers with age reported.

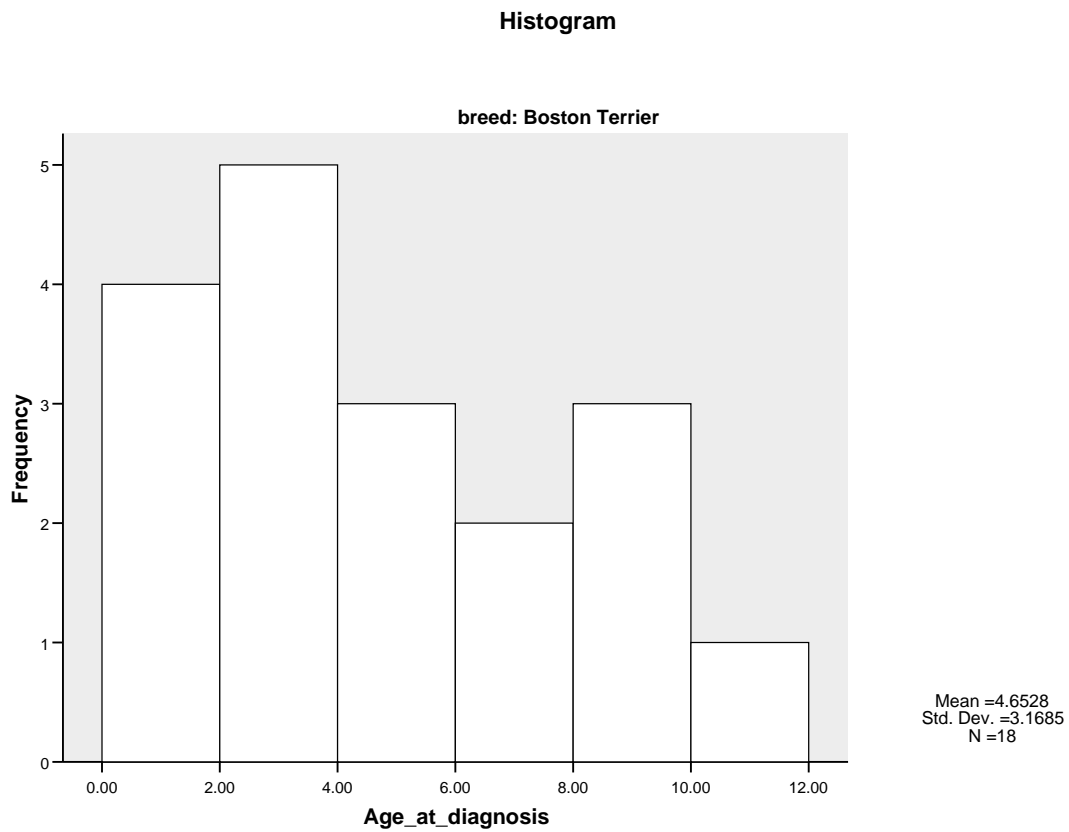


Figure 4. Histogram showing frequency of age at diagnosis for the 18 Boston Terriers with one or more disease conditions, using the youngest age at which a disease condition was first reported for those dogs with more than one disease condition or episode.

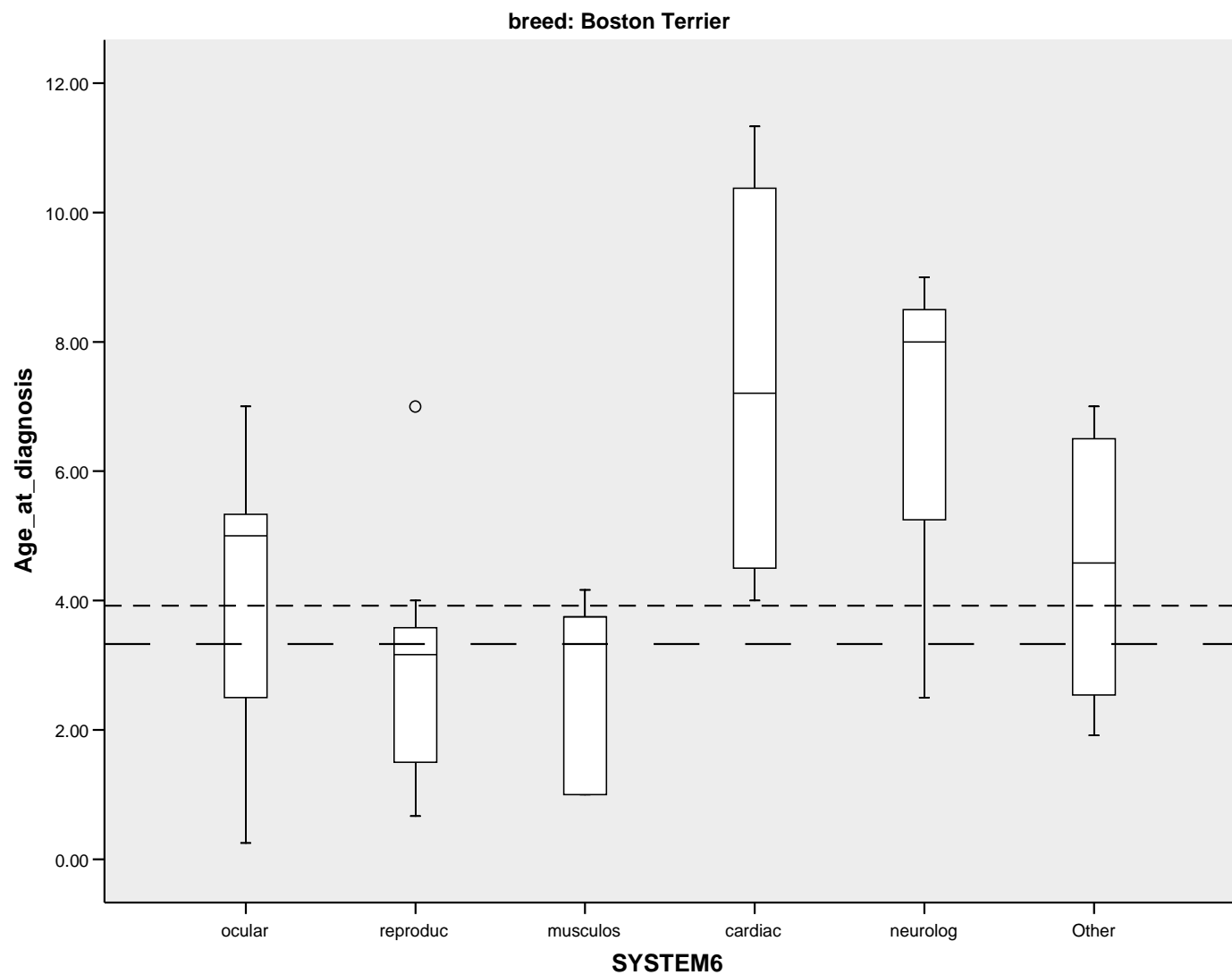


Figure 5. Box and whisker plot of age at diagnosis in years for the most common disease conditions in descending order for Boston Terriers (N=34 conditions with age reported). The dashed line (---) is the overall median age at diagnosis for all dogs in the survey and the dotted line (----) is the overall median age at diagnosis for Boston Terriers. The solid line within each grey box represents the median age at diagnosis from the condition.

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

Disease condition	All conditions		Most common specific conditions in descending order
	N	%	
1 Ocular	10	27.0	Cataract (unspecified > congenital); corneal ulcer
2 Reproductive	9	24.3	Dystochia (uterine inertia > physical blockage); false pregnancy; prostatomegaly
3 Musculoskeletal	6	16.2	Arthritis (forelimbs); CLR; patellar luxation
4 Cardiac	4	10.8	Heart murmur (unspecified > Grade 2); collapse
5 Neurologic	3	8.1	Seizures; IVDD
6 Respiratory	3	8.1	Long soft palate
7 Gastrointestinal	1	2.7	Colitis
8 Urologic	1	2.7	Urethral obstruction
Total	37	100.0	