

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

Summary results of the
Purebred Dog Health Survey
for Bullmastiffs

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%.

Bullmastiffs

A total of 491 forms were sent out and 80 were returned, representing 140 live dogs. This breed had a 16.3 % response rate (80/491) and it represented 0.58% of all returns (80/13,741).

Mortality data

A total of 96 deaths were reported and this represents 0.60 % of all deaths reported in the survey (96/15,881). The median age at death for Bullmastiffs was 7 years and 6 months (min = 1 year and 4 months, max = 13 years and 6 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 Bullmastiffs. Age at death is presented for the most common causes of death (Figure 2).

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

Cause of death	N	%	Most common specific causes in descending order
1 Cancer	36	37.5	Lymphoma; lung (type unspecified)
2 Gastrointestinal	8	8.3	Gastric dilatation/volvulus (GDV)
3 Cardiac	6	6.3	Heart defect unspecified; heart failure; cardiomegaly
4 Perioperative	5	5.2	
5 Urologic	5	5.2	Kidney failure (chronic or unspecified); cystitis
6 Endocrine	4	4.2	Cushings; diabetes mellitus
7 Old age	4	4.2	Old age
8 Behaviour	3	3.1	Aggression
9 Musculoskeletal	3	3.1	Arthritis
10 Neurologic	3	3.1	Seizures; cerebellar abiotrophy
11 Other	3	3.1	Uncodeable
12 Sudden death	3	3.1	
13 Combinations	2	2.1	Arthritis & epilepsy; Cushings & cancer (mammary)
14 Immune mediated	2	2.1	Unspecified
15 Reproductive	2	2.1	Pyometra
16 Collapse	1	1.0	
17 Hepatic	1	1.0	Liver failure (chronic, unspecified)
18 Senility	1	1.0	
19 Septicaemia	1	1.0	
20 Systemic	1	1.0	Allergy to insect bite or sting or snake bite
21 Trauma	1	1.0	Road traffic accident
22 Unknown	1	1.0	
Total	96	100.0	

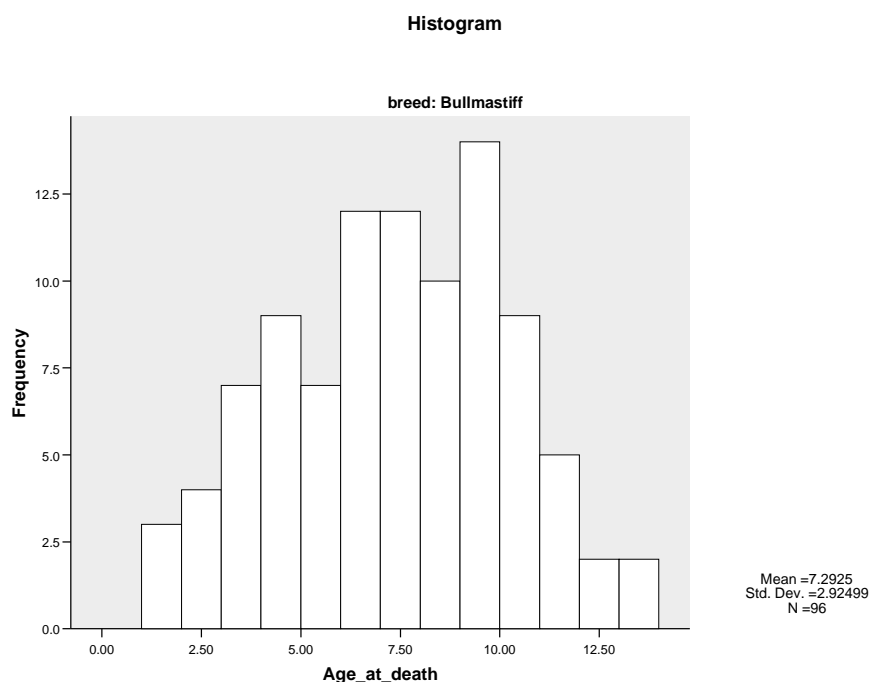


Figure 1. Histogram showing the frequency (as number of dogs) of age at death (in years) for the 96 Bullmastiff deaths with age at death reported.

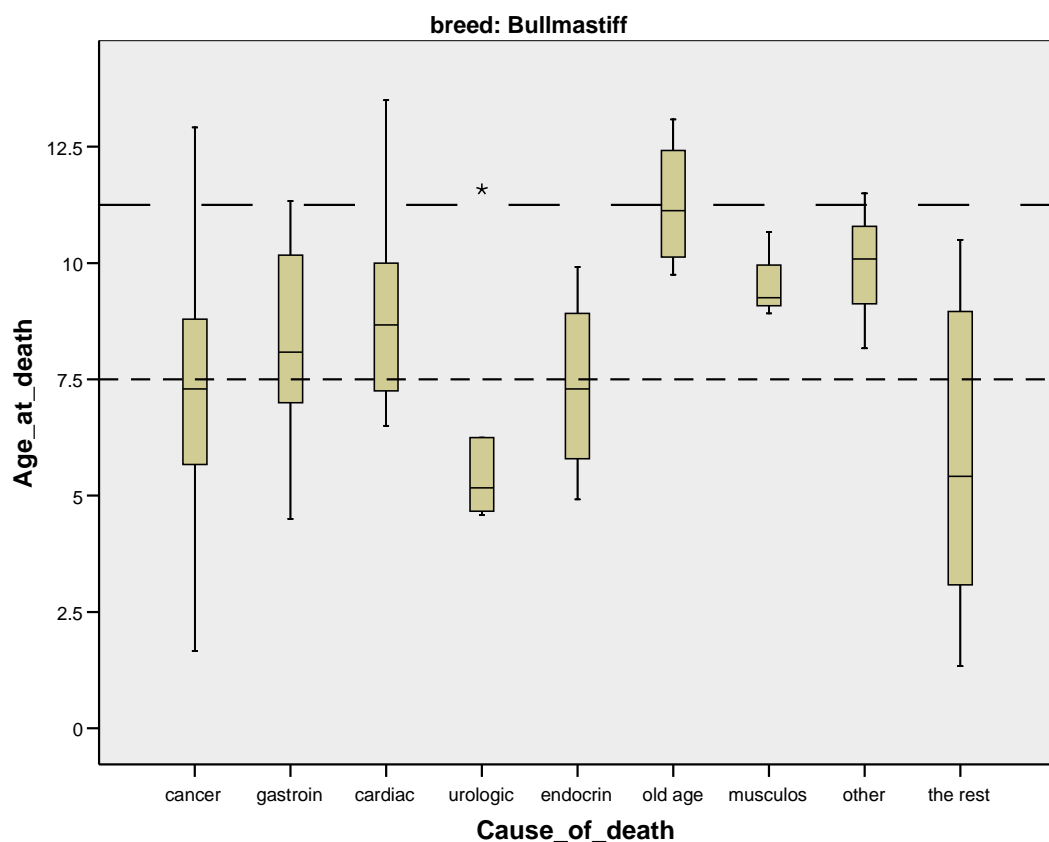


Figure 2. Box and whisker plot of age at death in years for the most common causes of death in Bullmastiffs (N=96). The dashed line (---) is the overall median age at death for all dogs in the survey and the dotted line (----) is the overall median age of death for Bullmastiffs. The solid line within each grey box represents the median age at death from the condition.

Morbidity data

The median current age of the 140 live dogs with a reported age was 4 years and 3 months (min=1 month, max=10 years and 10 months, Figure 3). Health information was reported for 140 live dogs of which 66 (47%) were healthy and 74 (53%) had at least one reported health condition, resulting in a total of 125 reported conditions with a median of 1 condition/dog (min=1, max=6).

The median current age of all healthy dogs with a reported age (N=66) was 3 years and 1 month (min=1 month, max=8 years and 7 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=74) was 5 years (min=7 months, max=10 years and 10 months). The median age at diagnosis for all disease occurrences with a reported age at diagnosis (N=122) was 2 years and 10 months (min= 2 months, max= 10 years and 6 months, Figure 4). Table 3 shows the disease conditions for Bullmastiffs. Age at diagnosis is presented for the most common disease conditions (Figure 5).

Table 2. Distribution of gender and neuter status for 139 Bullmastiffs with reported gender and neuter status.

Gender	Neuter status		Totals
	Intact	Neutered	
Female	50	35	85 (61%)
Male	45	9	54 (39%)
Totals	95 (68%)	44 (32%)	139 (100%)

Significantly more females were neutered ($P=0.0025$).

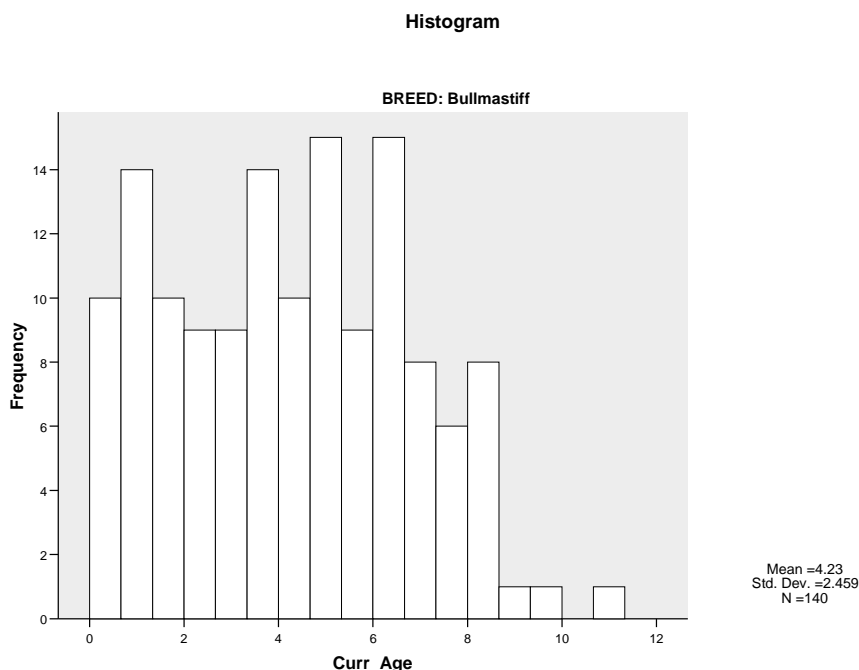


Figure 3. Histogram showing frequency of current age in years for the 140 live Bullmastiffs with age reported.

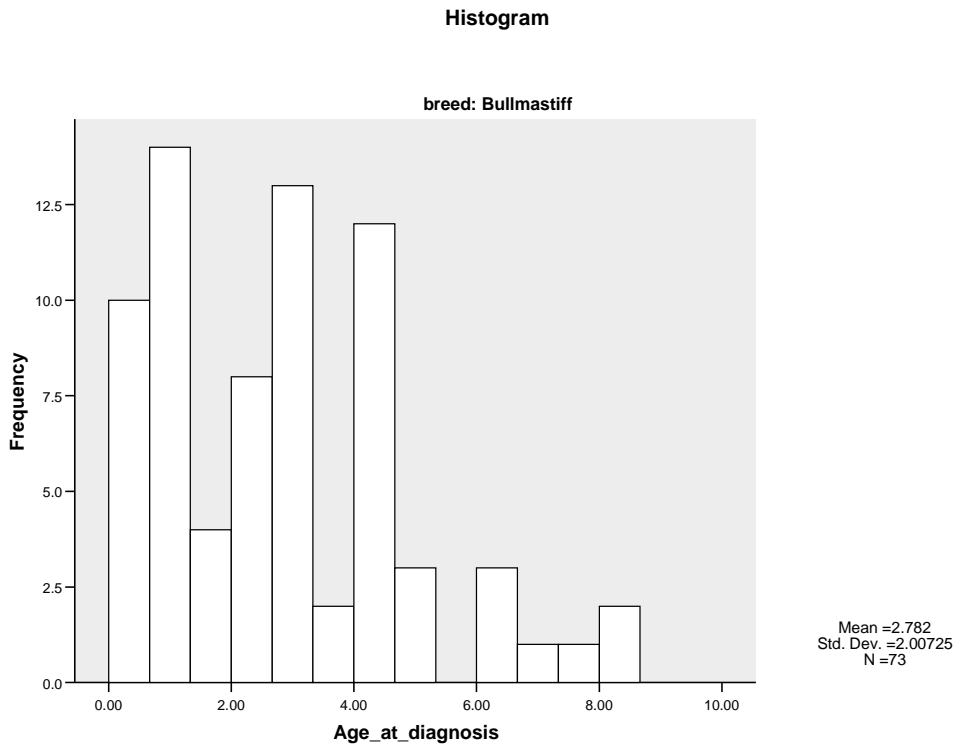
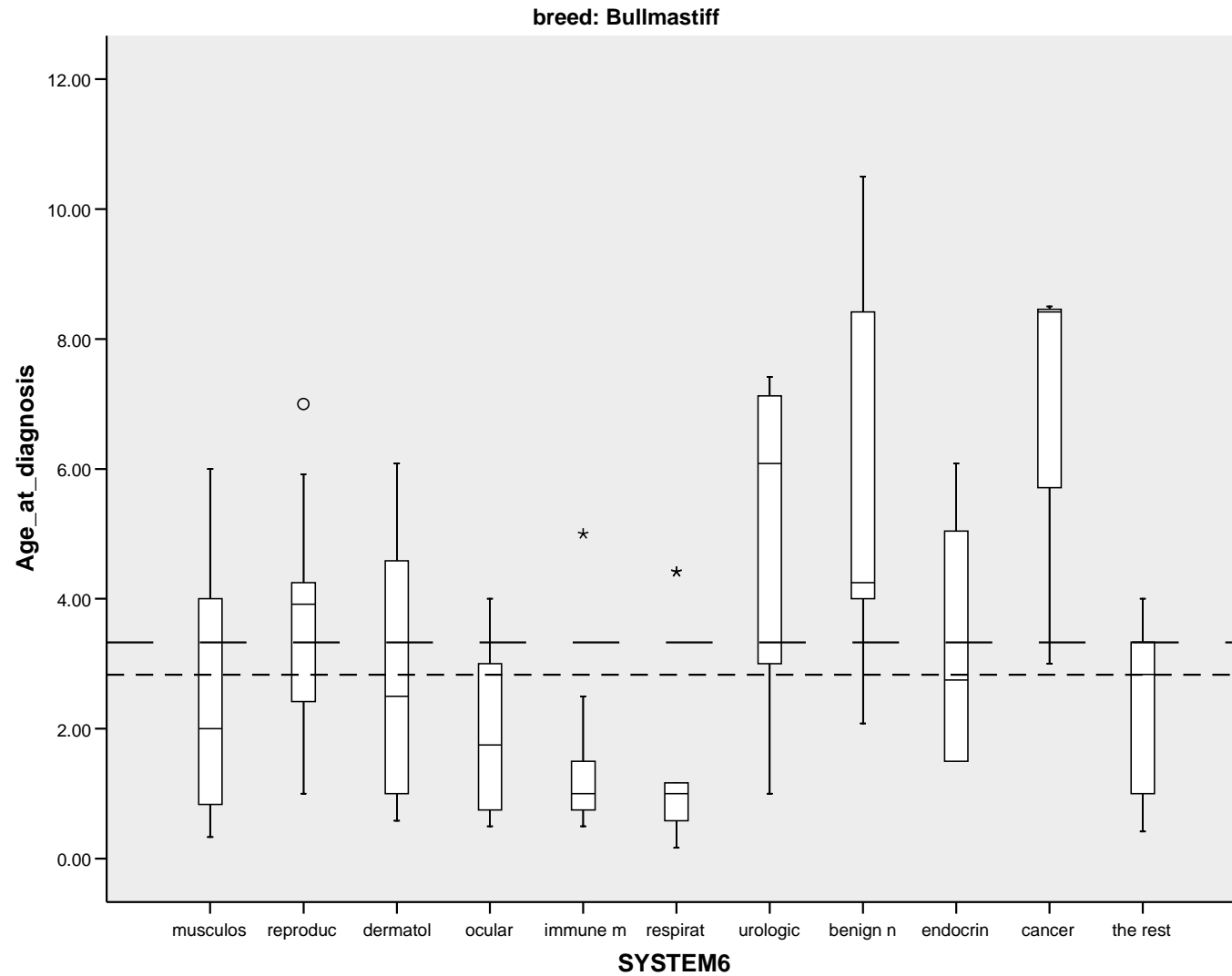


Figure 4. Histogram showing frequency of age at diagnosis for the 73 Bullmastiffs with one or more disease conditions, using the youngest age at which a disease condition was first reported for those dogs with more than one disease condition or episode.



episode.

Figure 5. Box and whisker plot of age at diagnosis in years for the most common disease conditions in descending order for Bullmastiffs (N=74 dogs with 122 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 Bullmastiffs. 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 Bullmastiffs.

Disease condition	All conditions		Most common specific conditions in descending order
	N	%	
1 Musculoskeletal	25	20.0	Arthritis (limbs>rest); CLR; OCD (elbow>rest); CHD
2 Reproductive	21	16.8	Pyometra; dystochia (uterine inertia); irregular heat cycles; false pregnancy
3 Dermatologic	14	11.2	Pyotraumatic dermatitis; mites (demodex); alopecia; other (unspecified)
4 Ocular	10	8.0	Entropion; blindness; blocked tear duct; conjunctivitis; KCS; distichiasis; red eye; trichiasis
5 Immune mediated	9	7.2	Food hypersensitivity; flea allergy; gluten-sensitive enteropathy; dust mite allergy
6 Respiratory	9	7.2	Kennel cough; long soft palate; respiratory infection (unspecified)
7 Urologic	7	5.6	Cystitis; incontinence (unspecified=after spay)
8 Benign neoplasia	6	4.8	Lipoma
9 Aural	5	4.0	Otitis externa; excessive ear wax; ear mites
10 Endocrine	4	3.2	Hypothyroidism; weight loss (unspecified)
11 Cancer	3	2.4	Unspecified
12 Cardiac	3	2.4	Heart murmur (unspecified)
13 Gastrointestinal	3	2.4	Colitis; foreign body obstruction; vomiting
14 Unknown	3	2.4	Undiagnosed illness
15 Trauma	2	1.6	Hindlimb; spinal cord
16 Neurologic	1	0.8	Unspecified
Total	125	100.0	