

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

Summary results of the  
Purebred Dog Health Survey  
for English Springer Spaniels

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%.

## English Springer Spaniels

A total of 353 forms were sent out and 71 were returned, representing 258 live dogs. This breed had a 20.1% response rate (71/353) and it represented 0.52% of all returns (71/13,741).

### Mortality data

A total of 90 deaths were reported and this represents 0.57% of all deaths reported in the survey (90/15,881). The median age at death for English Springer Spaniels was 12 years (min = 1 year and 2 months, max = 19 years and 6 months) and this was higher than the overall median of 11 years and 3 months (Figure 1). Table 1 shows the causes of death for English Springer Spaniels. Age at death is presented for the most common causes of death (Figure 2).

Table 1. Causes of death by organ system/category for English Springer Spaniels.

Cause of death	N	%	Most common specific causes in descending order
1 Cancer	24	26.7	Liver (type unspecified); unspecified; lung (type u/s)
2 Old age	16	17.8	Old age & old age combinations
3 Cerebral vascular	6	6.7	Stroke or cerebral vascular accident
4 Cardiac	5	5.6	Heart attack; heart failure; cardiomegaly
5 Endocrine	4	4.4	Diabetes mellitus; Cushings disease
6 Hepatic	4	4.4	Chronic liver failure; liver disease unspecified
7 Urologic	4	4.4	Kidney failure (chronic > acute)
8 Gastrointestinal	3	3.3	GDV; intestinal perforation; pancreatic cyst
9 Unknown	3	3.3	
10 Behaviour	2	2.2	Aggression
11 Combinations	2	2.2	
12 Immune mediated	2	2.2	AIHA; unspecified
13 Musculoskeletal	2	2.2	Arthritis; myopathy
14 Perioperative	2	2.2	
15 Senility	2	2.2	
16 Trauma	2	2.2	Road traffic accident; unspecified
17 Cardiovascular	1	1.1	Unspecified
18 Infection	1	1.1	Leptospirosis
19 Neurologic	1	1.1	Seizures
20 Other	1	1.1	Uncodeable
21 Reproductive	1	1.1	Pyometra
22 Respiratory	1	1.1	Pneumonia
23 Sudden death	1	1.1	
Total	90	100.0	

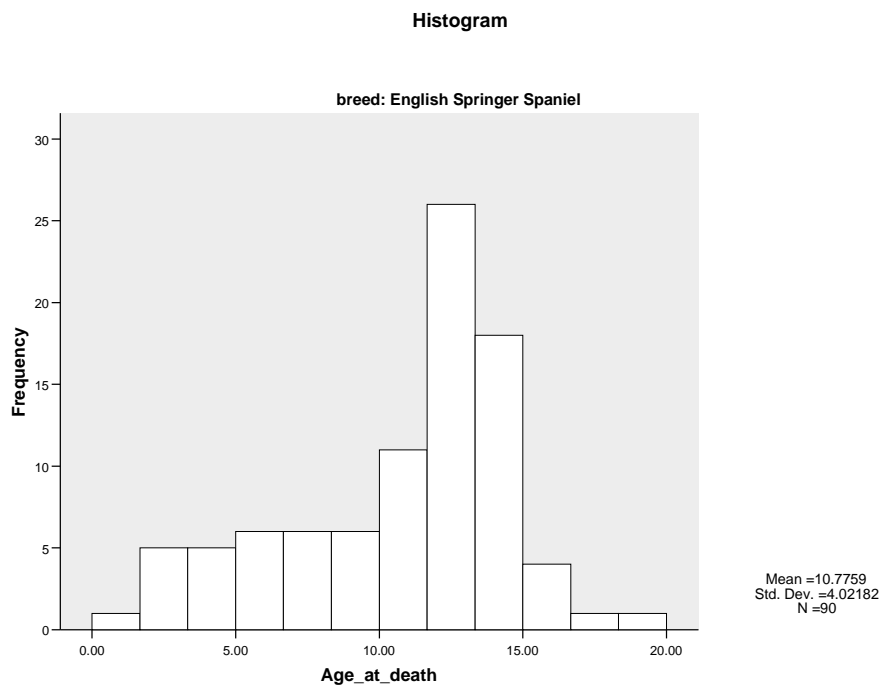


Figure 1. Histogram showing the frequency (as number of dogs) of age at death (in years) for the 90 English Springer Spaniel deaths with age at death reported.

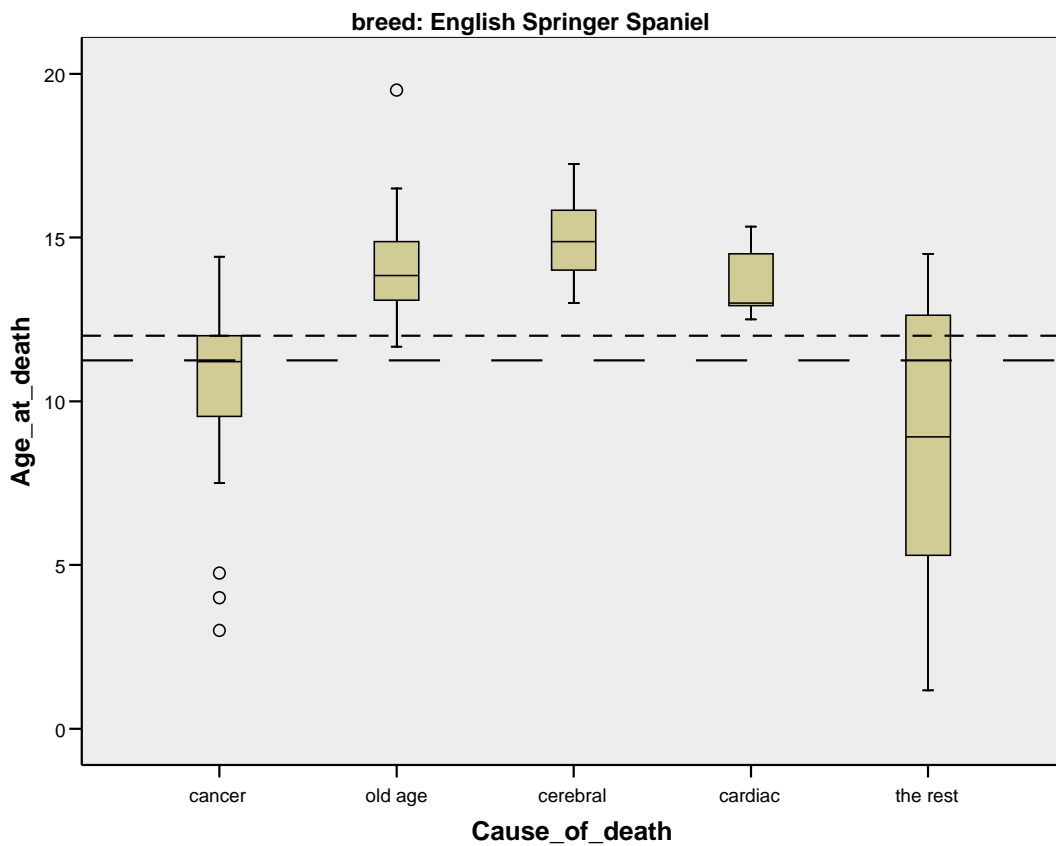


Figure 2. Box and whisker plot of age at death in years for the most common causes of death in English Springer Spaniels (N=90). The dashed line (---) is the overall median age at death for all dogs in the survey and the dotted line (----) is the overall median age of death for English Springer Spaniels. The solid line within each grey box represents the median age at death from the condition.

**Morbidity data**

The median current age of the 255 live dogs with a reported age was 5 years and 1 month (min=2 months, max=16 years and 10 months, Figure 3). Health information was reported for 258 live dogs of which 168 (65%) were healthy and 90 (35%) had at least one reported health condition, resulting in a total of 146 reported conditions with a median of 1 condition/dog (min=1, max=5).

The median current age of all healthy dogs with a reported age (N=168) was 3 years and 6 months (min=2 months, max=13 years and 9 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=89) was 7 years and 6 months (min=7 months, max=16 years and 10 months). The median age at diagnosis for all disease occurrences with a reported age at diagnosis (N=143) was 4 years and 6 months (min= 1 month, max= 14 years and 7 months, Figure 4). Table 3 shows the disease conditions for English Springer Spaniels. Age at diagnosis is presented for the most common disease conditions (Figure 5).

Table 2. Distribution of gender and neuter status for 258 English Springer Spaniels with reported gender and neuter status.

Gender	Neuter status		Totals
	Intact	Neutered	
Female	120	43	163 (63%)
Male	87	8	95 (37%)
Totals	207 (80%)	51 (20%)	258 (100%)

Significantly more females were neutered (P=0.0005).

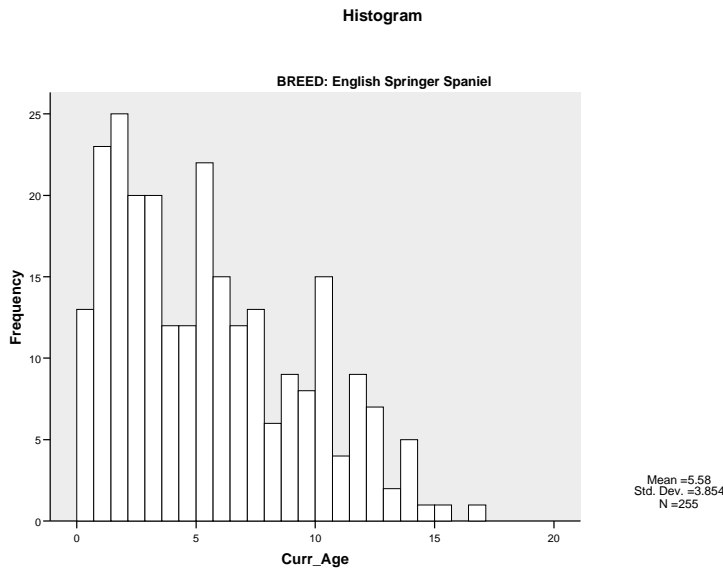


Figure 3. Histogram showing frequency of current age in years for the 255 live English Springer Spaniels with age reported.

### Histogram

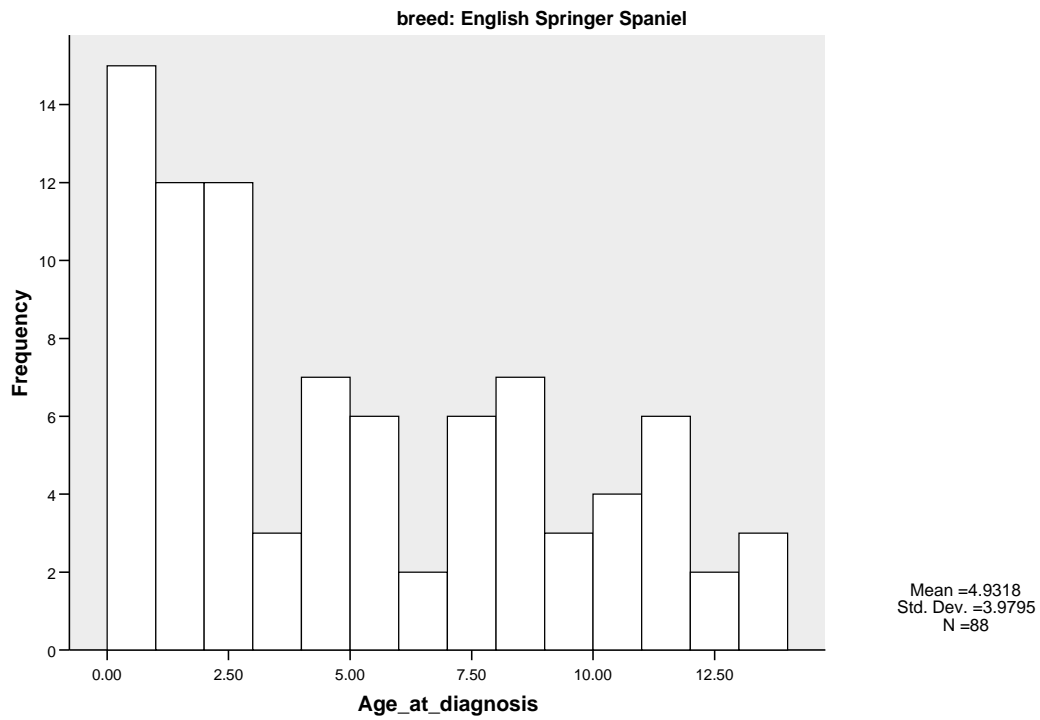


Figure 4. Histogram showing frequency of age at diagnosis for the 88 English Springer Spaniels with one or more disease conditions, using the youngest age at which a disease condition was first reported for those dogs with more than one disease condition or episode.

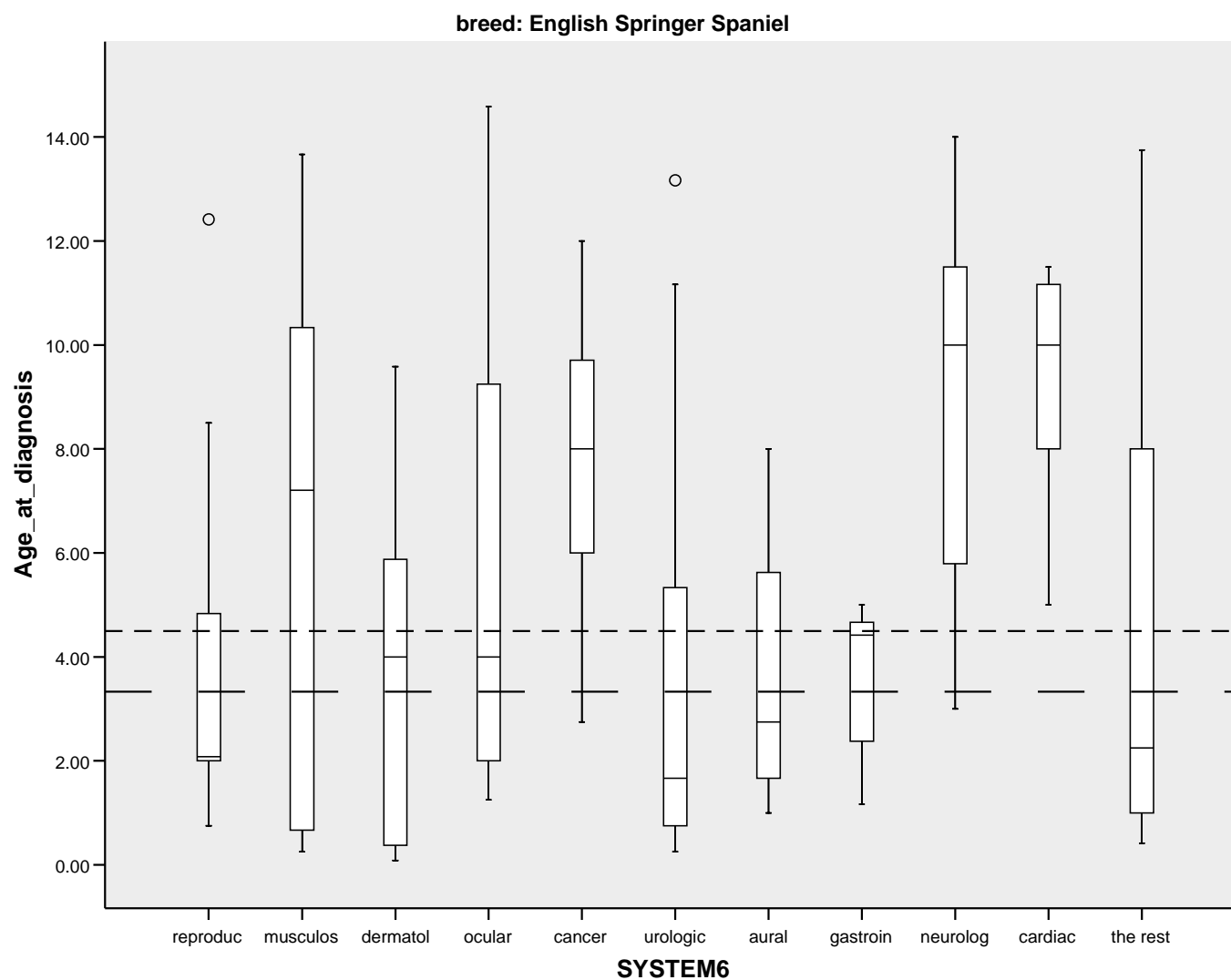


Figure 5. Box and whisker plot of age at diagnosis in years for the most common disease conditions in descending order for English Springer Spaniels (N=89 dogs with 143 conditions with age reported). The dashed line (---) is the overall median age at diagnosis for all dogs in the survey and the dotted line (----) is the overall median age at diagnosis for English Springer Spaniels. 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 English Springer Spaniels.

Disease condition	All conditions		Most common specific conditions in descending order
	N	%	
1 Reproductive	18	12.3	Pyometra; false pregnancy
2 Musculoskeletal	17	11.6	Arthritis (hindlimbs>rest); CLR; OCD (shoulder); fracture
3 Dermatologic	15	10.3	Dermatitis; mites (cheyletiella>sarcoptes); sebaceous cysts; skin infection unspecified
4 Ocular	14	9.6	KCS; blindness; cataracts; distichiasis
5 Cancer	11	7.5	Unspecified (mammary); adenocarcoma; lymphoma; mast cell tumour (MCT)
6 Urologic	10	6.8	Cystitis; incontinence (after spay=unspecified); cystouroliths (struvite)
7 Aural	8	5.5	Otitis externa
8 Gastrointestinal	8	5.5	Colitis; GDV; foreign body obstruction; gastroenteritis; haemorrhagic gastroenteritis
9 Immune mediated	7	4.8	Atopy; flea allergy; gluten-sensitive enteropathy; masticatory muscle myositis (MMM)
10 Neurologic	7	4.8	Deafness; seizures
11 Unknown	6	4.1	Undiagnosed illness
12 Cardiac	5	3.4	Heart murmur; cardiomegaly
13 Endocrine	5	3.4	Hypothyroidism; Addison's disease
14 Trauma	4	2.7	Ocular; dermatologic; spinal
15 Benign neoplasia	3	2.1	Lipoma
16 Dental	3	2.1	Dental disease; retained puppy teeth
17 Respiratory	3	2.1	Kennel cough; bronchitis
18 Cerebrovascular	1	0.7	Stroke or cerebral vascular accident
19 Uncode and other	1	0.7	Tonsillitis
Total	146	100.0	