

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

Summary results of the
Purebred Dog Health Survey
for the Shiba Inu breed

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%.

The Shiba Inu breed

A total of 78 forms were sent out and 17 were returned, representing 56 live dogs. This breed had a 21.8% response rate (17/78) and it represented 0.12% of all returns (17/13,741).

Mortality data

A total of 3 deaths were reported and this represents 0.02% of all deaths reported in the survey (3/15,881). The median age at death for the Shiba Inu breed was 7 years (min = 4 years and 6 months, max = 9 years) and this was lower than the overall median of 11 years and 3 months. Table 1 shows the age at death and causes of death for the Shiba Inu breed.

Table 1. Causes of death by organ system/category for the Shiba Inu breed.

Cause of death	N	%	Age at death
1 Endocrine – Diabetes mellitus	1	33.3	7 years
2 Hepatic – Liver disease (unspecified)	1	33.3	9 years
3 Poisoning	1	33.3	4 years and 6 months
Total	3	100.0	

Morbidity data

The median current age of the 56 live dogs with a reported age was 4 years and 3 months (min=3 months, max=15 years and 7 months, Figure 3). Health information was reported for 56 live dogs of which 43 (77%) were healthy and 13 (23%) had at least one reported health condition, resulting in a total of 17 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=43) was 3 years and 2 months (min=3 months, max=10 years and 6 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=11) was 8 years and 6 months (min=1 year and 2 months, max=15 years and 7 months). The median age at diagnosis for all disease occurrences with a reported age at diagnosis (N=13) was 3 years and 10 months (min= 5 months, max= 13 years, Figure 4). Table 3 shows the disease conditions for the Shiba Inu breed. Age at diagnosis is presented for the most common disease conditions (Figure 5).

Table 2. Distribution of gender and neuter status for the 56 Shiba Inu breed with reported gender and neuter status.

Gender	Neuter status		Totals
	Intact	Neutered	
Female	25	7	32 (57%)
Male	23	1	24 (43%)
Totals	48 (86%)	8 (14%)	56 (100%)

There was no association between gender and neuter status (P=0.0609).

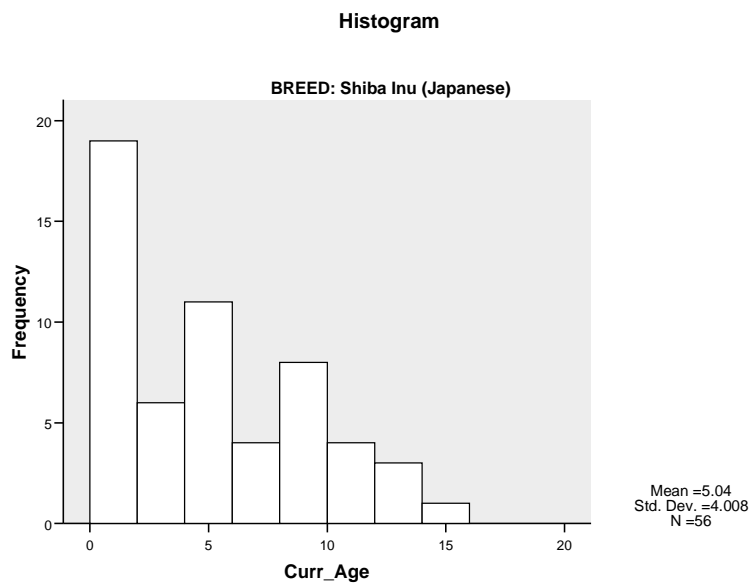


Figure 3. Histogram showing frequency of current age in years for the 56 live Shiba Inu breed with age reported.

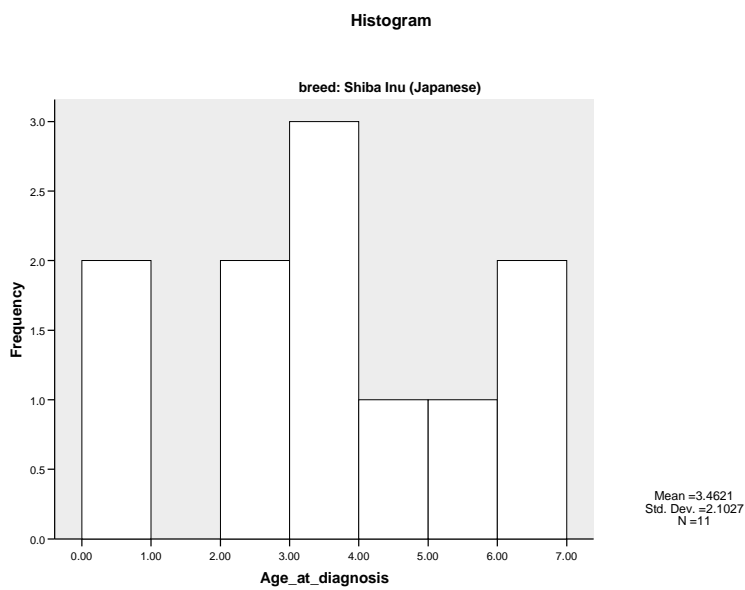


Figure 4. Histogram showing frequency of age at diagnosis for the 11 Shiba Inu breed with one or more disease conditions, using the youngest age at which a disease condition was first reported for those dogs with more than one disease condition or episode.

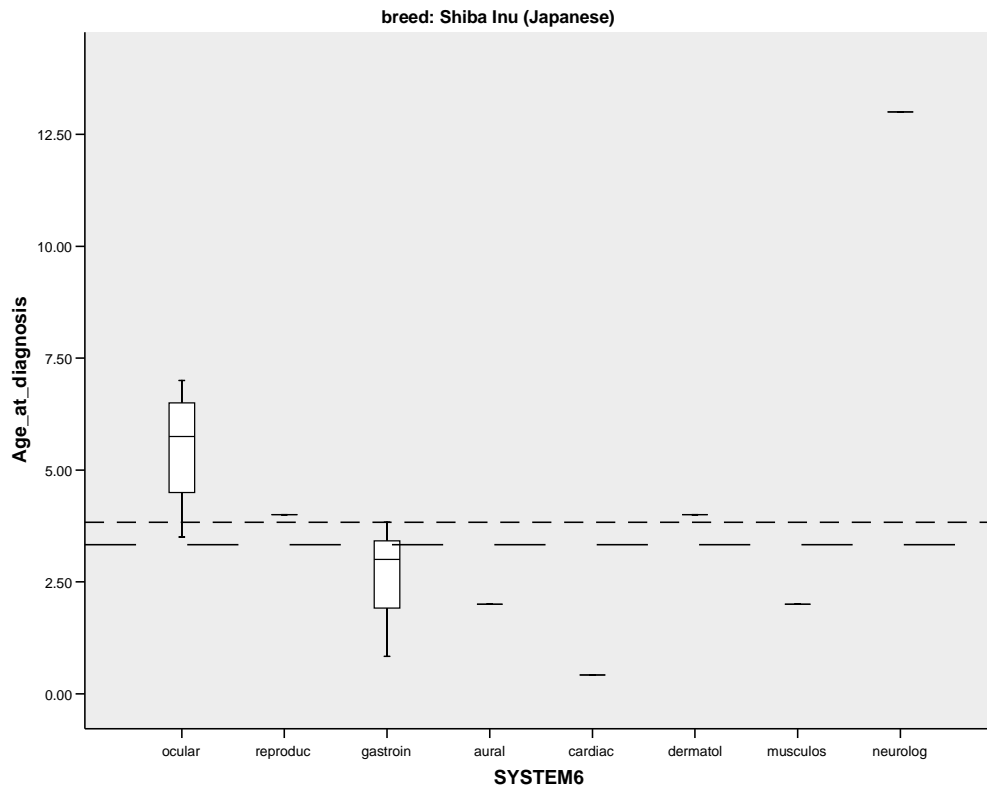


Figure 5. Box and whisker plot of age at diagnosis in years for the most common disease conditions in descending order for the Shiba Inu breed (N=11 dogs with 13 conditions with age reported). The dashed line (---) is the overall median age at diagnosis for all dogs in the survey and the dotted line (----) is the overall median age at diagnosis for the Shiba Inu breed. 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 the Shiba Inu breed.

Disease condition	All conditions		Most common specific conditions in descending order
	N	%	
1 Ocular	4	23.5	Cataracts; conjunctivitis; glaucoma; PRA
2 Reproductive	4	23.5	Inability to breed; infertility
3 Gastrointestinal	3	17.6	Colitis; acute gastroenteritis
4 Aural	1	5.9	Otitis externa
5 Cardiac	1	5.9	Heart murmur (grade 4)
6 Dermatologic	1	5.9	Pyotraumatic dermatitis
7 Immune mediated	1	5.9	Vaccine reaction
8 Musculoskeletal	1	5.9	Patellar luxation
9 Neurologic	1	5.9	Unspecified
Total	17	100.0	

PRA=progressive retinal atrophy