

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

Summary results of the  
Purebred Dog Health Survey  
for Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retrievers

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%.

## Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retrievers

A total of 175 forms were sent out and 60 were returned, representing 91 live dogs. This breed had a 34.3% response rate (60/175) and it represented 0.44% of all returns (60/13,741).

### Mortality data

A total of 9 deaths were reported and this represents 0.06% of all deaths reported in the survey (9/15,881). The median age at death for Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retrievers was 8 years (min = 9 months, max = 14 years and 4 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 Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retrievers. Age at death is presented for the most common causes of death (Figure 2).

Table 1. Causes of death by organ system/category for Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retrievers.

Cause of death	N	%	Most common specific causes in descending order
1 Cancer	3	33.3	Type unspecified (mammary, lung)
2 Neurologic	2	22.2	Cerebellar abiotrophy; meningitis
3 Cardiac	1	11.1	Heart failure
4 Cerebral vascular	1	11.1	Stroke or cerebral vascular accident
5 Other	1	11.1	Uncodeable
6 Trauma	1	11.1	Road traffic accident
Total	9	100.0	

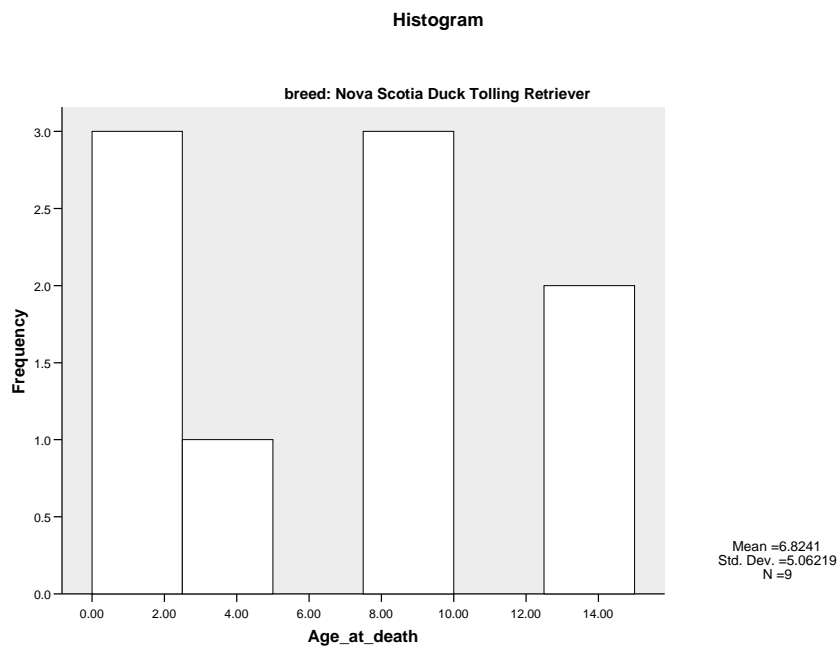


Figure 1. Histogram showing the frequency (as number of dogs) of age at death (in years) for the 9 Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever deaths with age at death reported.

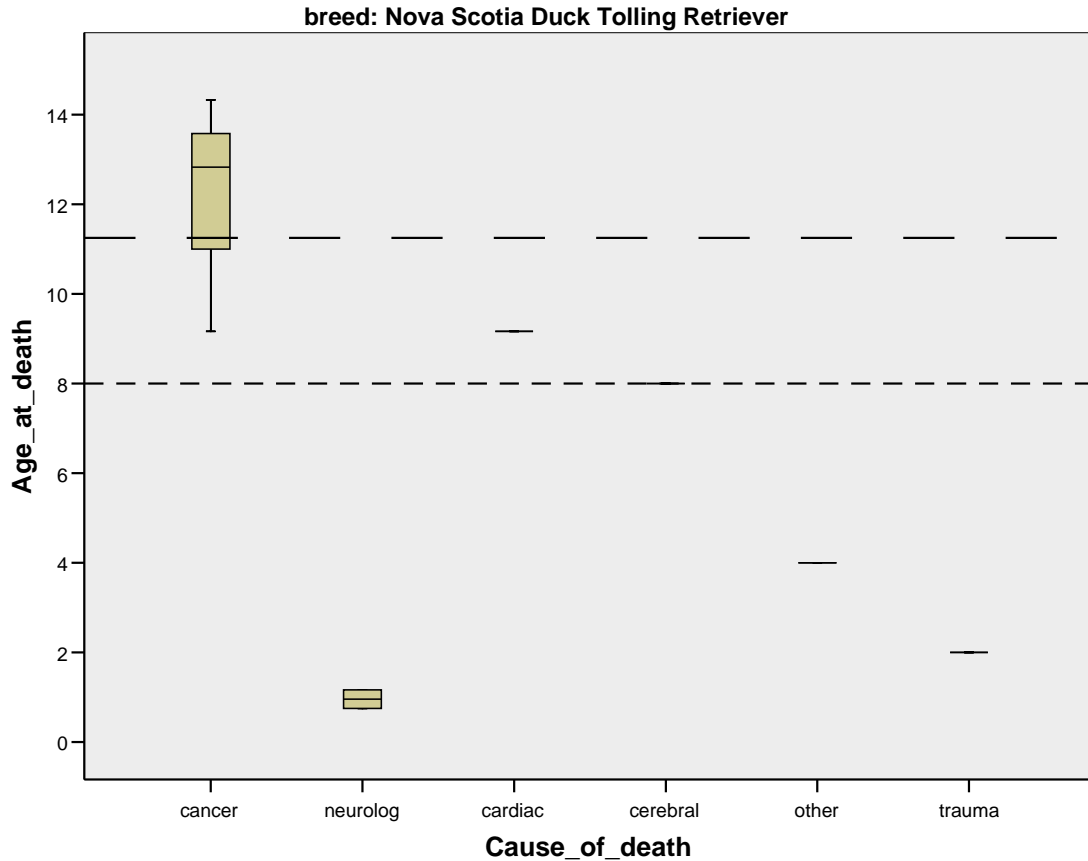


Figure 2. Box and whisker plot of age at death in years for the most common causes of death in Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retrievers (N=9). The dashed line (---) is the overall median age at death for all dogs in the survey and the dotted line (----) is the overall median age of death for Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retrievers. The solid line within each grey box represents the median age at death from the condition.

### Morbidity data

The median current age of the 91 live dogs with a reported age was 3 years and 3 months (min=2 months, max=14 years, Figure 3). Health information was reported for 91 live dogs of which 50 (55%) were healthy and 41 (45%) had at least one reported health condition, resulting in a total of 69 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=50) was 1 year and 5 months (min=2 months, max=10 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=40) was 5 years and 6 months (min=7 months, max=14 years). The median age at diagnosis for all disease occurrences with a reported age at diagnosis (N=67) was 2 years and 6 months (min= 2 months, max= 12 years, Figure 4). Table 3 shows the disease conditions for Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retrievers. Age at diagnosis is presented for the most common disease conditions (Figure 5).

Table 2. Distribution of gender and neuter status for 91 Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retrievers with reported gender and neuter status.

Gender	Neuter status		Totals
	Intact	Neutered	
Female	30	20	50 (55%)
Male	27	14	41 (45%)
Totals	57 (63%)	34 (37%)	91 (100%)

There was no association between gender and neuter status (P=0.5658).

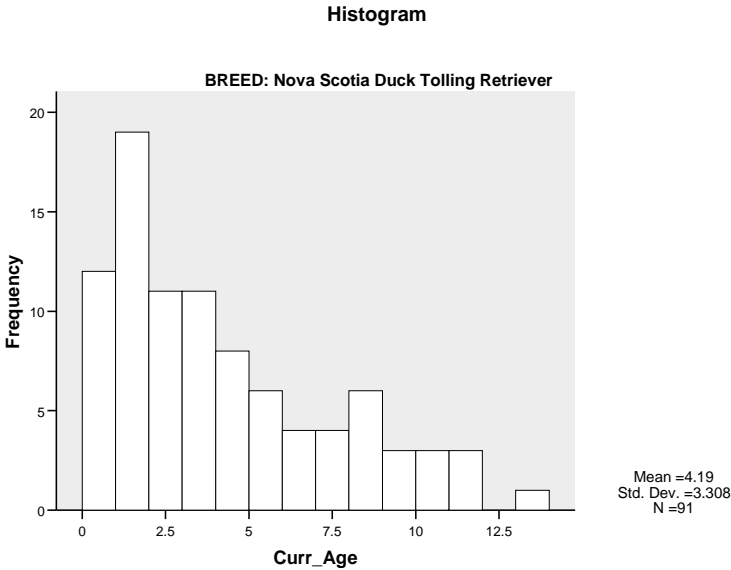


Figure 3. Histogram showing frequency of current age in years for the 91 live Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retrievers with age reported.

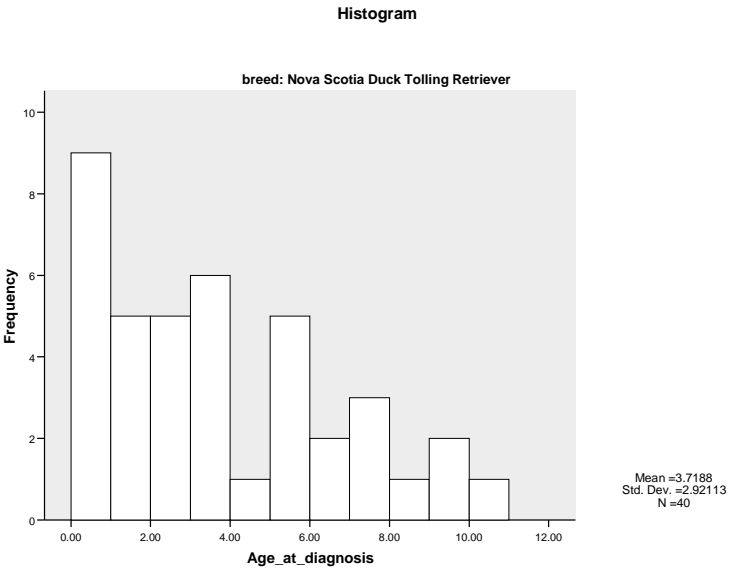


Figure 4. Histogram showing frequency of age at diagnosis for the 40 Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retrievers with one or more disease conditions, using the youngest age at which a disease condition was first reported for those dogs with more than one disease condition or episode.

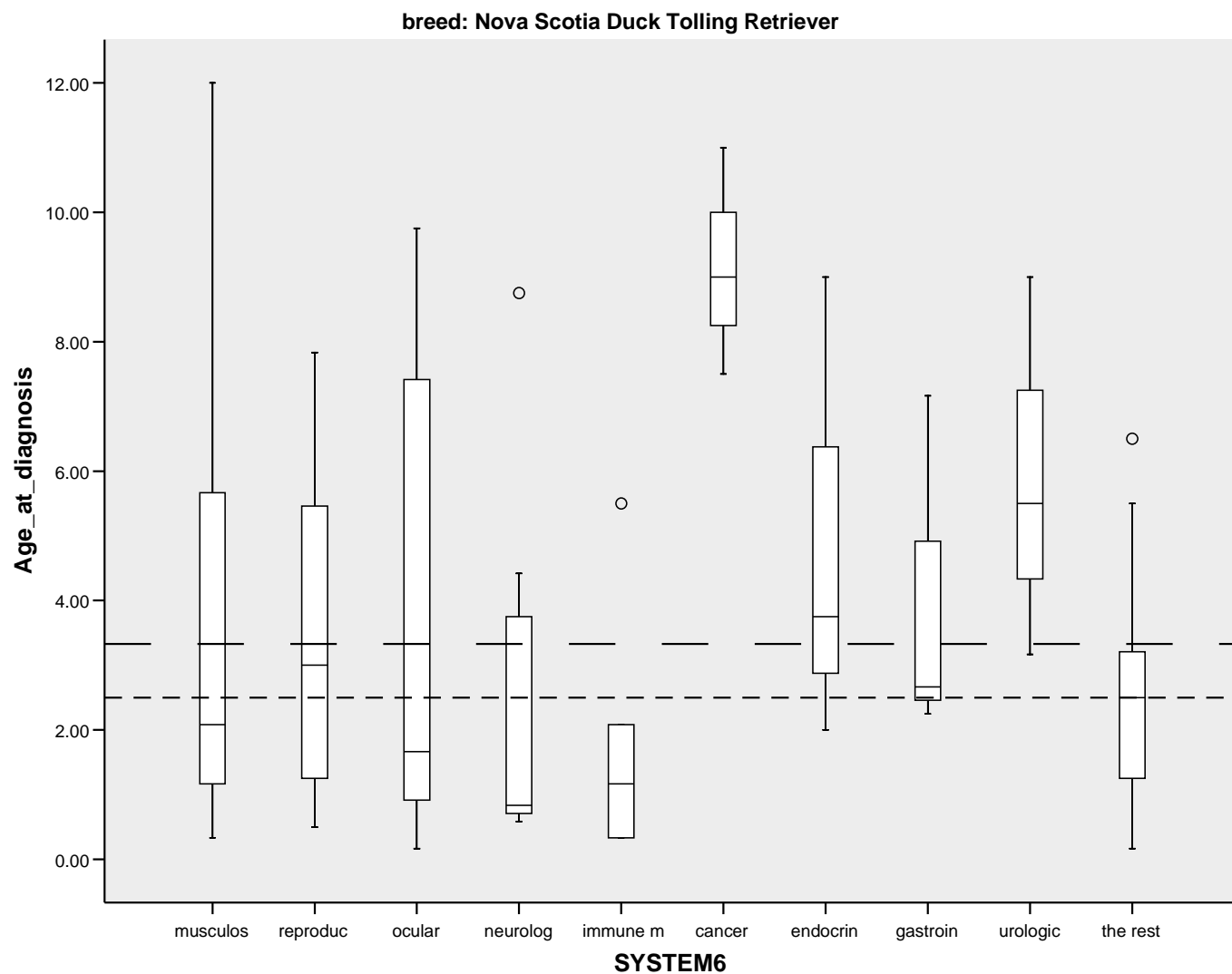


Figure 5. Box and whisker plot of age at diagnosis in years for the most common disease conditions in descending order for Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retrievers (N=40 dogs with 67 conditions with age reported). The dashed line (---) is the overall median age at diagnosis for all dogs in the survey and the dotted line (----) is the overall median age at diagnosis for Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retrievers. 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 Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retrievers.

Disease condition	All conditions		Most common specific conditions in descending order
	N	%	
1 Musculoskeletal	11	15.9	Arthritis (hindlimb=unspecified); CLR; other (unspecified); lameness (forelimb=hindlimb)
2 Reproductive	11	15.9	False pregnancy; prostatomegaly; cryptorchid; eclampsia; mastitis; pyometra
3 Ocular	9	13.0	Corneal ulcer; entropion; distichiasis; conjunctivitis; trichiasis
4 Neurologic	7	10.1	Meningitis; IVDD (lumbosacral=unspecified); rage syndrome; seizures
5 Immune mediated	6	8.7	Flea allergy; food allergy; allergy other (unspecified)
6 Cancer	4	5.8	MCT (limbs; mammary); schwannoma
7 Dermatologic	4	5.8	Mites (cheyletiella=sarcoptes); sebaceous cyst; dermatitis
8 Endocrine	3	4.3	Hypothyroidism; hypoparathyroidism
9 Gastrointestinal	3	4.3	Colitis; foreign body obstruction; pancreatitis
10 Unknown	3	4.3	Undiagnosed illness
11 Urologic	3	4.3	Cystitis; incontinence (unspecified); urethral obstruction
12 Respiratory	2	2.9	Kennel cough
13 Aural	1	1.4	Otitis externa
14 Dental	1	1.4	Retained puppy teeth
15 Hepatic	1	1.4	Hepatitis
Total	69	100.0	