

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

Summary results of the
Purebred Dog Health Survey
for Portuguese Water Dogs

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%.

Portuguese Water Dogs

A total of 46 forms were sent out and 11 were returned, representing 26 live dogs. This breed had a 23.9% response rate (11/46) and it represented 0.08% of all returns (11/13,741).

Mortality data

A total of 6 deaths were reported and this represents 0.04% of all deaths reported in the survey (6/15,881). The median age at death for Portuguese Water Dogs was 11 years and 5 months (min = 4 years and 3 months, max = 15 years and 3 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 Portuguese Water Dogs. Age at death is presented for the most common causes of death (Figure 2).

Table 1. Causes of death by organ system/category for Portuguese Water Dogs.

Cause of death	N	%	Most common specific causes in descending order
1 Old age	3	50.0	Old age
2 Cancer	1	16.7	Carcinoma (lung)
3 Other	1	16.7	Uncodeable
4 Unknown	1	16.7	
5 Total	6	100.0	

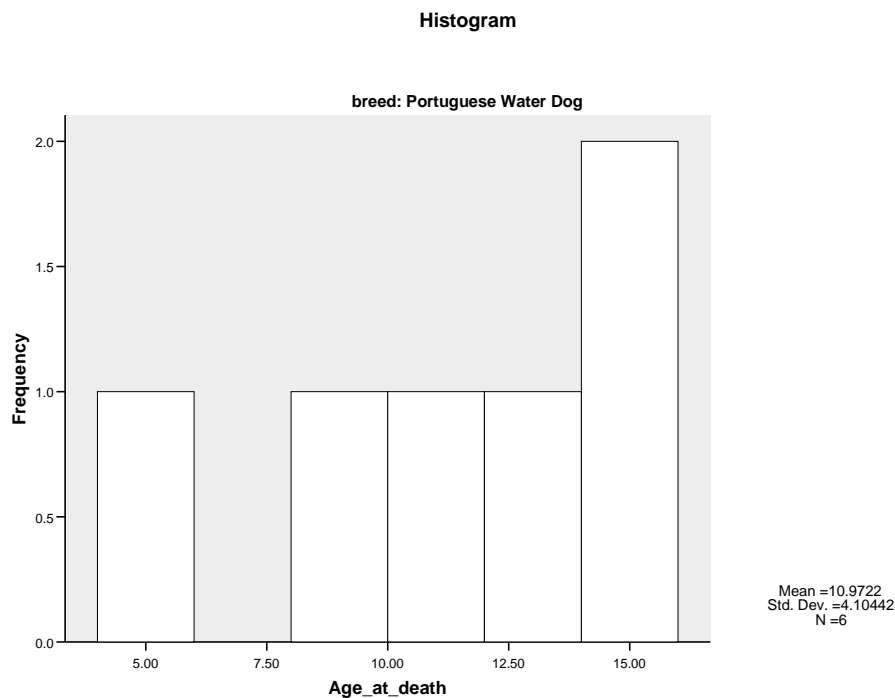


Figure 1. Histogram showing the frequency (as number of dogs) of age at death (in years) for the 6 Portuguese Water Dog deaths with age at death reported.

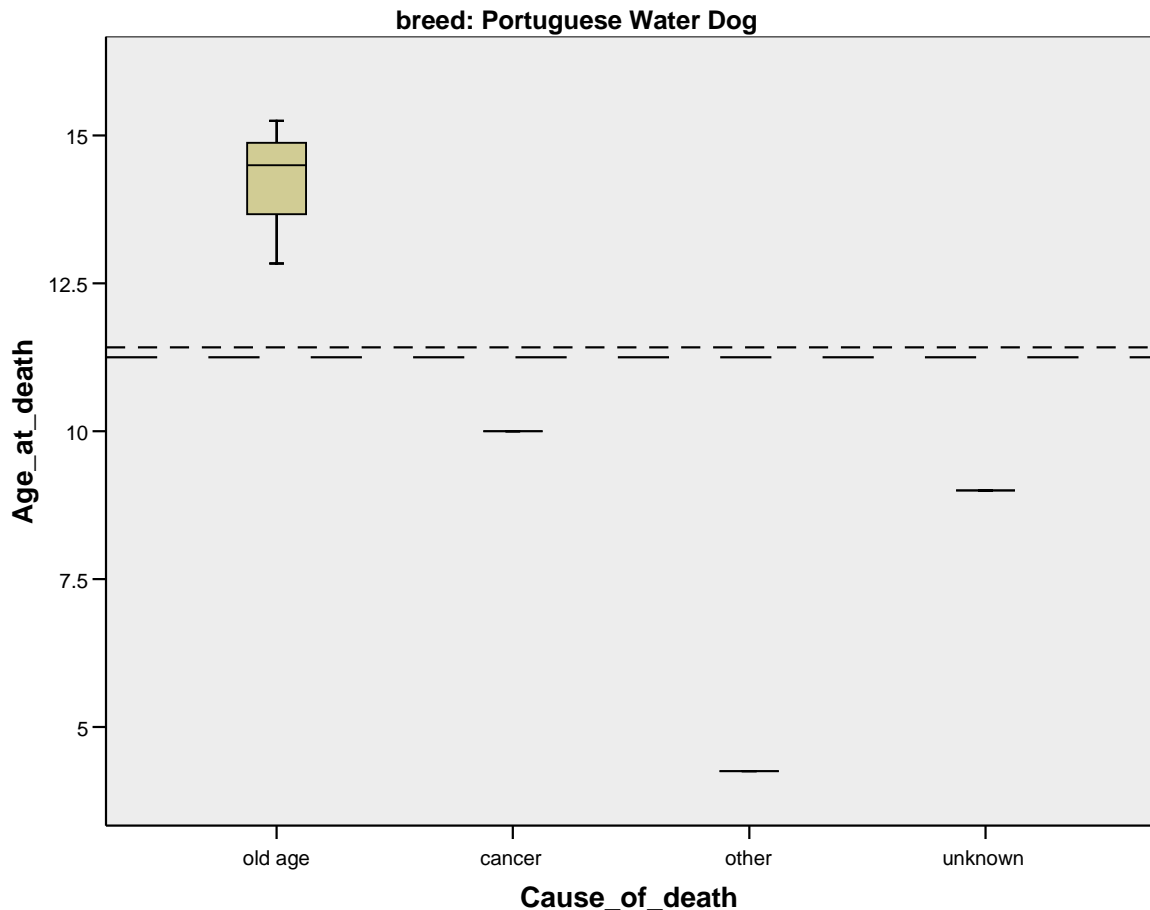


Figure 2. Box and whisker plot of age at death in years for the most common causes of death in Portuguese Water Dogs (N=6). The dashed line (---) is the overall median age at death for all dogs in the survey and the dotted line (----) is the overall median age of death for Portuguese Water Dogs. The solid line within each grey box represents the median age at death from the condition.

Morbidity data

The median current age of the 26 live dogs with a reported age was 4 years and 2 months (min=4 months, max=12 years, Figure 3). Health information was reported for 26 live dogs of which 21 (81%) were healthy and 5 (19%) had at least one reported health condition, resulting in a total of 6 reported conditions with a median of 1 condition/dog (min=1, max=2).

The median current age of all healthy dogs with a reported age (N=21) was 3 years and 3 months (min=4 months, max=12 years). 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=5) was 5 years and 6 months (min=4 years and 1 month, max=12 years). The median age at diagnosis for all disease occurrences with a reported age at diagnosis (N=6) was 2 years and 6 months (min= 4 months, max= 8 years). Table 3 shows the disease conditions and age at diagnosis for Portuguese Water Dogs

Table 2. Distribution of gender and neuter status for 26 Portuguese Water Dogs with reported gender and neuter status.

Gender	Neuter status		Totals
	Intact	Neutered	
Female	10	6	16 (62%)
Male	8	2	10 (38%)
Totals	18 (69%)	8 (31%)	26 (100%)

There was no association between gender and neuter status (P=0.3469).

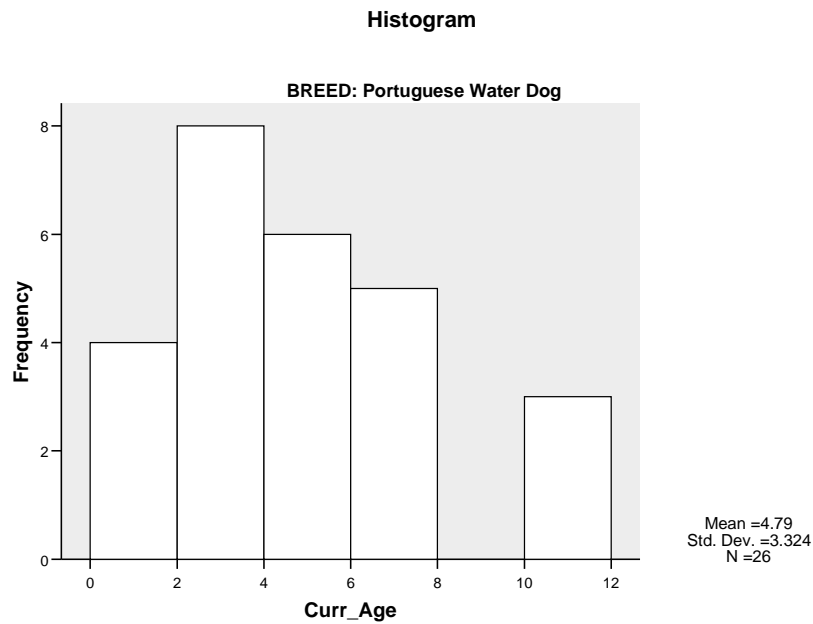


Figure 3. Histogram showing frequency of current age in years for the 26 live Portuguese Water Dogs with age reported.

Table 3. Disease conditions by organ system/category for Portuguese Water Dogs.

Disease condition	All conditions		Age at diagnosis
	N	%	
1 Aural – otitis externa	1	16.7	3 years and 2 months
2 Dermatologic – dermatitis	1	16.7	4 months
3 Endocrine – Addisons disease	1	16.7	1 year and 4 months
4 Musculoskeletal – hip dysplasia	1	16.7	1 year and 10 months
5 Neurologic – seizures	1	16.7	8 years
6 Urologic – cystitis	1	16.7	5 years and 4 months
Total	6	100.0	

