

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

Summary results of the  
Purebred Dog Health Survey  
for the Weimaraner 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 Weimaraner breed

A total of 1296 forms were sent out and 357 were returned, representing 558 live dogs. This breed had a 27.5% response rate (357/1296) and it represented 2.60% of all returns (357/13,741).

### Mortality data

A total of 242 deaths were reported and this represents 1.52% of all deaths reported in the survey (242/15,881). The median age at death for the Weimaraner breed was 11 years and 2 months (min = 8 months, max = 18 years and 10 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 the Weimaraner breed. Age at death is presented for the most common causes of death (Figure 2).

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

Cause of death	N	%	Most common specific causes in descending order
1 Cancer	58	24.0	Type unspecified (liver); lymphoma; brain tumour
2 Gastrointestinal	36	14.9	Gastric dilatation/volvulus (GDV); foreign body obstruction
3 Old age	33	13.6	Old age & age combinations
4 Cardiac	28	11.6	Heart failure; heart defect unspecified; heart attack; cardiomyopathy
5 Neurologic	16	6.6	Seizures; spinal disease unspecified; spinal paralysis
6 Behaviour	9	3.7	Aggression
7 Combinations	9	3.7	
8 Perioperative	9	3.7	
9 Cerebral vascular	8	3.3	Stroke or cerebral vascular accident
10 Musculoskeletal	6	2.5	Arthritis; hip dysplasia; muscular dystrophy
11 Other	6	2.5	Uncodeable
12 Poisoning	4	1.7	
13 Urologic	4	1.7	Kidney failure (chronic > acute); incontinence
14 Hepatic	3	1.2	Liver failure; liver disease (unspecified)
15 Trauma	3	1.2	Unspecified
16 Unknown	3	1.2	
17 Immune mediated	2	0.8	Masticatory muscle myositis (MMM); unspecified
18 Respiratory	2	0.8	Pneumonia
19 Dermatologic	1	0.4	Anal furunculosis
20 Internal bleeding	1	0.4	
21 Reproductive	1	0.4	Pyometra
Total	242	100.0	

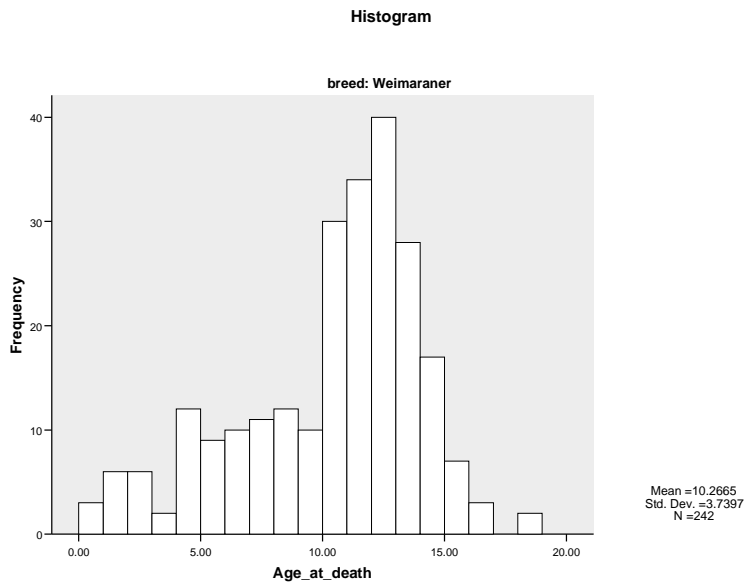


Figure 1. Histogram showing the frequency (as number of dogs) of age at death (in years) for the 242 Weimaraner deaths with age at death reported.

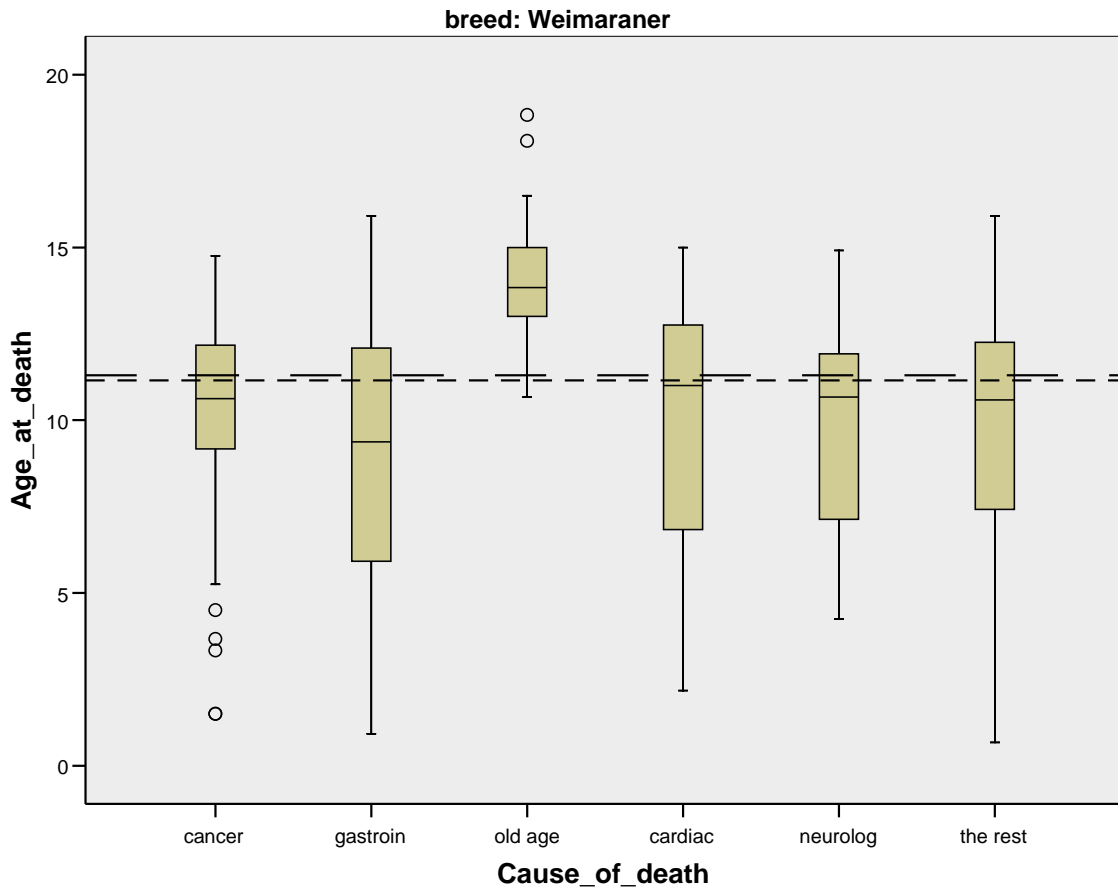


Figure 2. Box and whisker plot of age at death in years for the most common causes of death in the Weimaraner breed (N=242). The dashed line (---) is the overall median age at death for all dogs in the survey and the dotted line (----) is the overall median age of death for the Weimaraner breed. The solid line within each grey box represents the median age at death from the condition.

**Morbidity data**

The median current age of the 557 live dogs with a reported age was 5 years and 2 months (min=3 months, max=15 years and 1 month, Figure 3). Health information was reported for 558 live dogs of which 295 (53%) were healthy and 263 (47%) had at least one reported health condition, resulting in a total of 506 reported conditions with a median of 1 condition/dog (min=1, max=10).

The median current age of all healthy dogs with a reported age (N=295) was 3 years and 10 months (min=3 months, max=13 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=254) was 6 years and 10 months (min=5 months, max=15 years and 1 month). The median age at diagnosis for all disease occurrences with a reported age at diagnosis (N=488) was 3 years and 6 months (min= 2 months, max= 14 years, Figure 4). Table 3 shows the disease conditions for the Weimaraner breed. Age at diagnosis is presented for the most common disease conditions (Figure 5).

Table 2. Distribution of gender and neuter status for the 551 Weimaraner breed with reported gender and neuter status.

Gender	Neuter status		Totals
	Intact	Neutered	
Female	148	165	313 (57%)
Male	125	113	238 (43%)
Totals	273 (50%)	278 (50%)	551 (100%)

There was no association between gender and neuter status (P=0.2233).

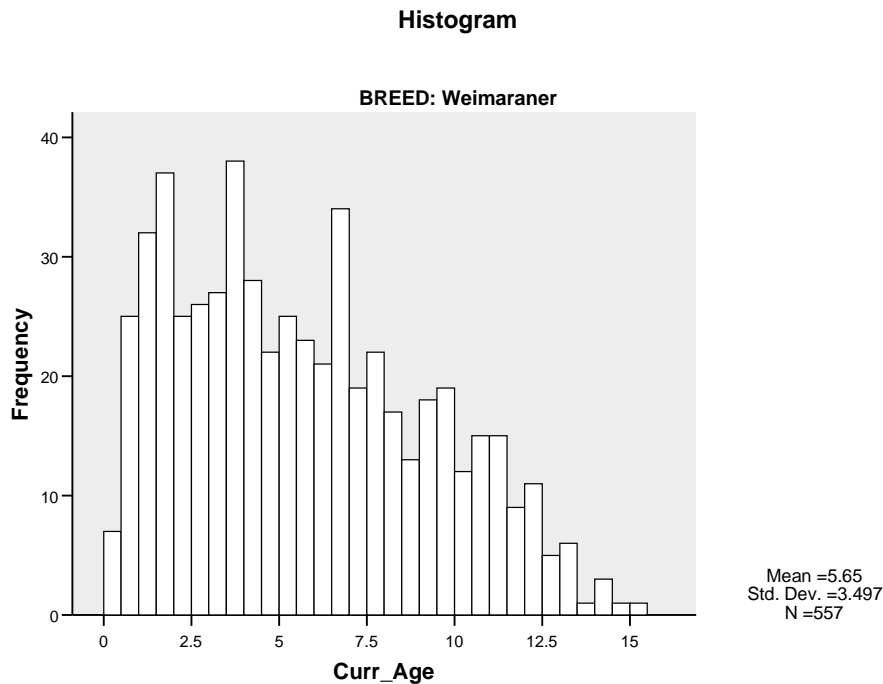


Figure 3. Histogram showing frequency of current age in years for the 557 live Weimaraner breed with age reported.

### Histogram

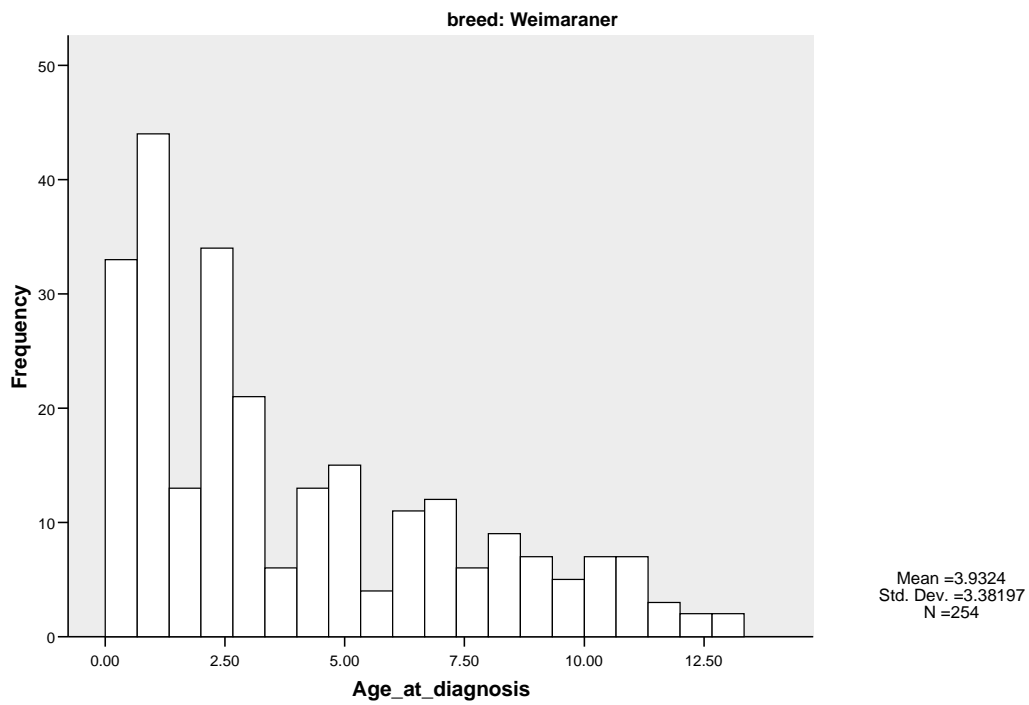


Figure 4. Histogram showing frequency of age at diagnosis for the 254 Weimaraner breed with one or more disease conditions, using the youngest age at which a disease condition was first reported for those dogs with more than one disease condition or episode.

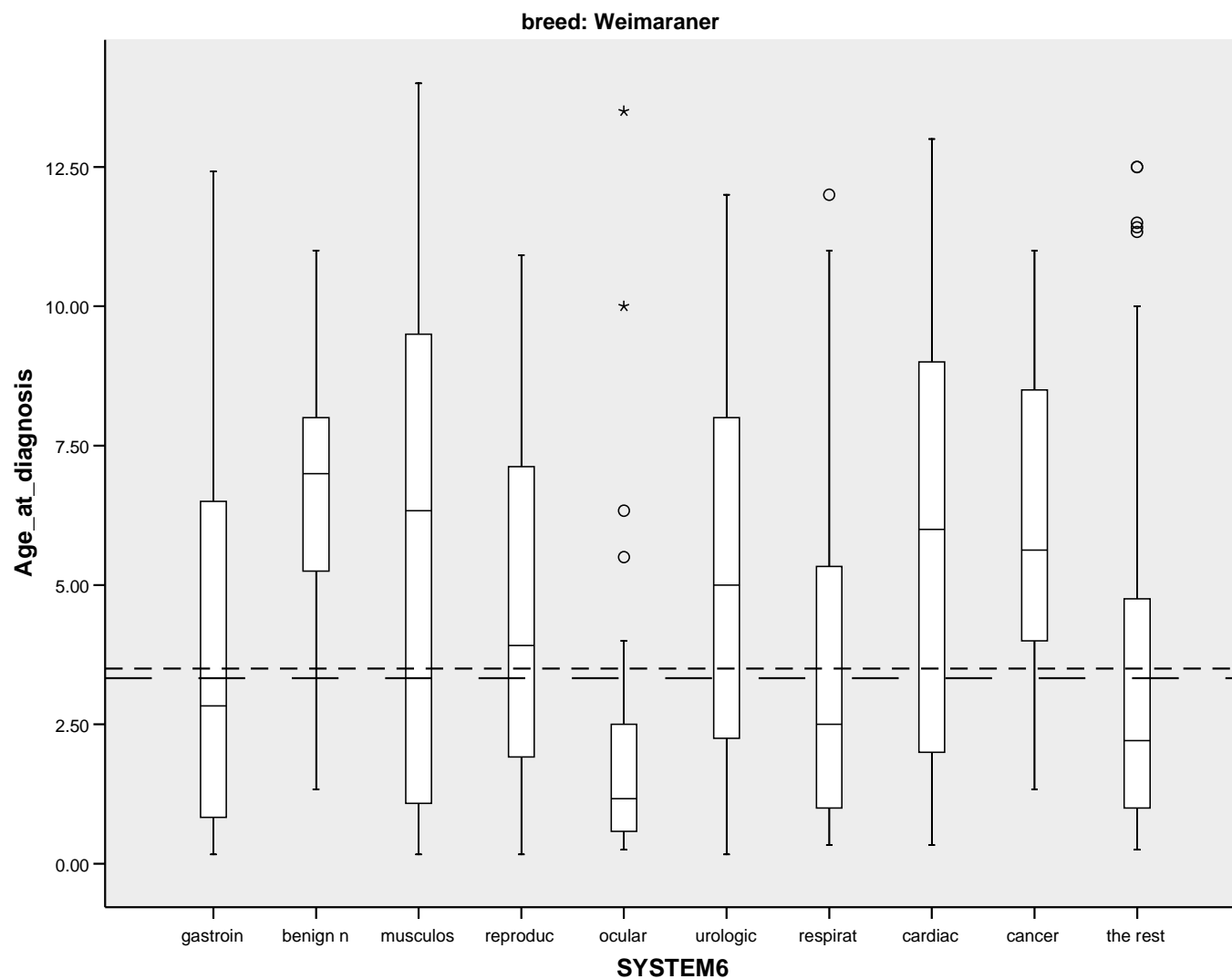


Figure 5. Box and whisker plot of age at diagnosis in years for the most common disease conditions in descending order for the Weimaraner breed (N=254 dogs with 488 conditions with age reported). The dashed line (---) is the overall median age at diagnosis for all dogs in the survey and the dotted line (----) is the overall median age at diagnosis for the Weimaraner 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 Weimaraner breed.

Disease condition	All conditions		Most common specific conditions in descending order
	N	%	
1 Gastrointestinal	82	16.2	Gastric dilatation/volvulus (GDV); colitis; diarrhoea; vomiting & diarrhoea; campylobacter
2 Benign neoplasia	48	9.5	Lipoma; cysts; histiocytoma; adenoma (anal); unspecified (axilla)
3 Musculoskeletal	47	9.3	Arthritis (hindlimb>hip=forelimb=hock=unspecified>rest); CHD; CLR; fracture; lameness
4 Reproductive	46	9.1	Pyometra; false pregnancy; prostatomegaly; vaginitis; cryptorchid; uterine inertia; metritis
5 Ocular	42	8.3	Distichiasis; buckled cartilage of 3 <sup>rd</sup> eyelid; cherry eye; entropion; blocked tear duct
6 Immune mediated	36	7.1	Atopy; food allergy; gluten-sensitive enteropathy; allergy unspecified; dust mites
7 Urologic	36	7.1	Incontinence (unspecified>after spay); cystitis; haematuria; pyelonephritis
8 Respiratory	29	5.7	Kennel cough; coughing; bronchitis; constricted nostrils; laryngeal paralysis; pneumonia
9 Cardiac	21	4.2	Heart murmur (unspecified>without clinical signs>rest); dilated cardiomyopathy; arrhythmia
10 Cancer	20	4.0	MCT (unspecified>pinna>side>rest); unspecified (skin>rest); brain tumour; lymphoma
11 Dermatologic	19	3.8	Dermatitis; mites (demodex>sarcoptes=unspecified); alopecia; ringworm
12 Aural	17	3.4	Otitis externa; excessive ear wax
13 Neurologic	15	3.0	Seizures; deafness; meningitis; secondary seizures (brain trauma); Wobbler syndrome
14 Unknown	14	2.8	Undiagnosed illness
15 Trauma	8	1.6	Skin; unspecified; bladder; cornea; spine
16 Anal gland	6	1.2	Anal sacculitis
17 Other	6	1.2	Uncodeable
18 Dental	4	0.8	Defect other than extra teeth; dental disease
19 Endocrine	4	0.8	Hypothyroidism; diabetes insipidus
20 Behaviour	2	0.4	Unspecified
21 Haematopoietic	2	0.4	Von Willebrands disease (VWD); anaemia unspecified
22 Cerebrovascular	1	0.2	Stroke or cerebral vascular accident
23 Hepatic	1	0.2	Enlarged liver
Total	506	100.0	