

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

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

A total of 110 forms were sent out and 33 were returned, representing 49 live dogs. This breed had a 30.0% response rate (33/110) and it represented 0.24% of all returns (33/13,741).

### Mortality data

A total of 19 deaths were reported and this represents 0.12% of all deaths reported in the survey (19/15,881). The median age at death for the Hovawart breed was 12 years and 11 months (min = 7 years, max = 14 years and 9 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 the Hovawart 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 Hovawart breed.

Cause of death	N	%	Most common specific causes in descending order
1 Old age	6	31.6	Old age
2 Cancer	3	15.8	Osteosarcoma; type unspecified (mammary)
3 Other	3	15.8	Uncodeable
4 Cardiac	2	10.5	Dilated cardiomyopathy; heart failure
5 Cerebral vascular	2	10.5	Stroke or cerebral vascular accident
6 Urologic	2	10.5	Chronic kidney failure; urethral obstruction
7 Musculoskeletal	1	5.3	Arthritis
Total	19	100.0	

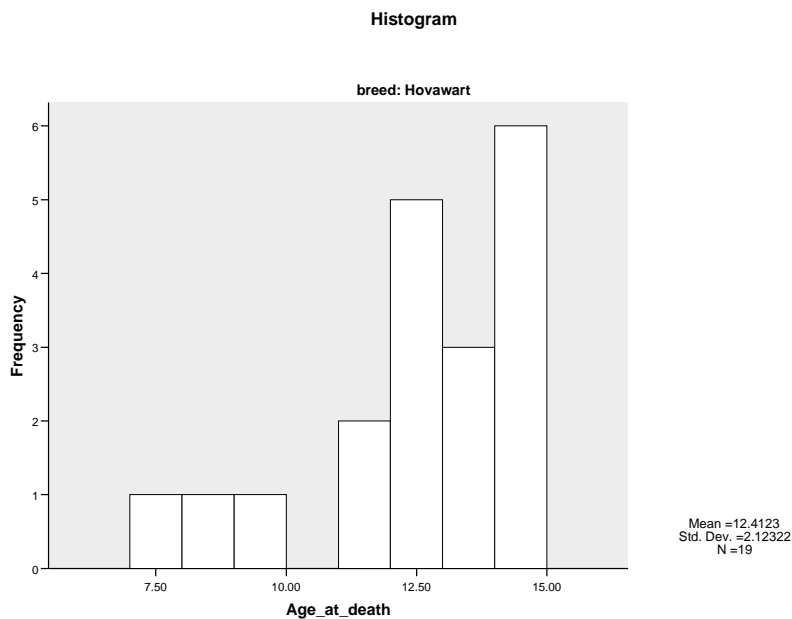


Figure 1. Histogram showing the frequency (as number of dogs) of age at death (in years) for the 19 Hovawart deaths with age at death reported.

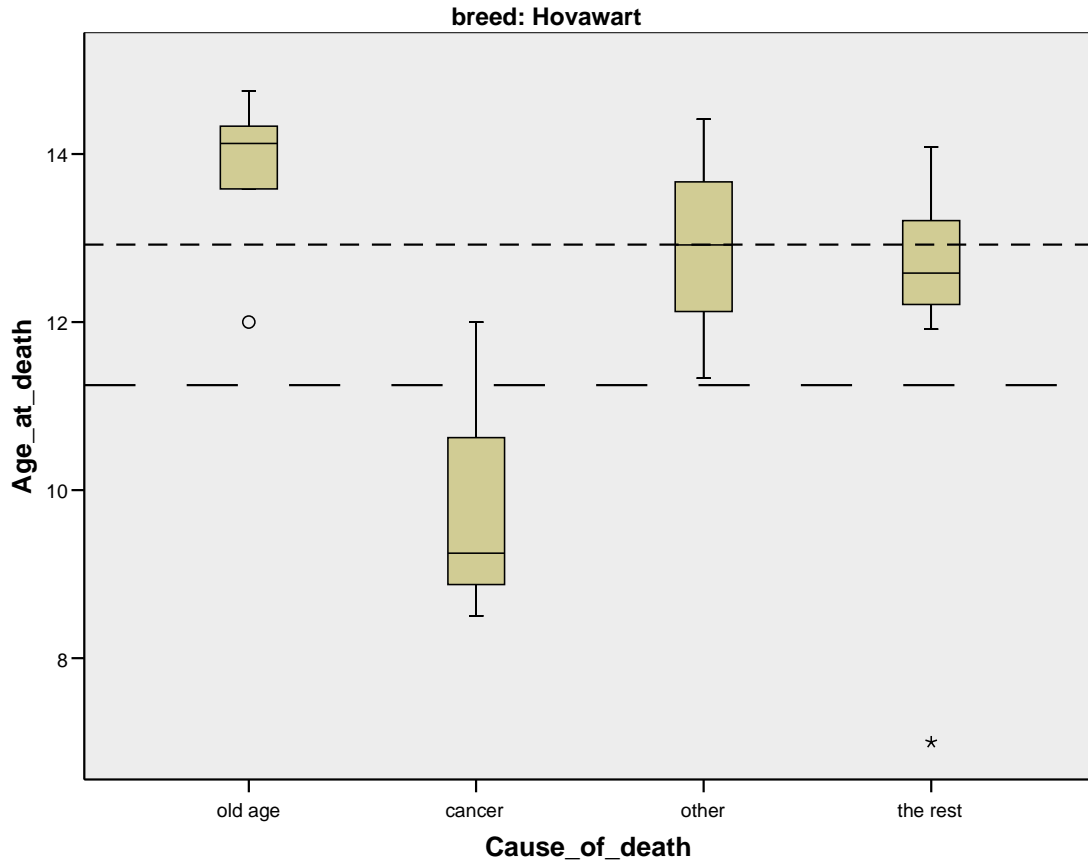


Figure 2. Box and whisker plot of age at death in years for the most common causes of death in the Hovawart breed (N=19). The dashed line (---) is the overall median age at death for all dogs in the survey and the dotted line (----) is the overall median age of death for the Hovawart breed. The solid line within each grey box represents the median age at death from the condition.

### Morbidity data

The median current age of the 49 live dogs with a reported age was 4 years and 6 months (min=5 months, max=14 years and 11 months, Figure 3). Health information was reported for 49 live dogs of which 35 (71%) were healthy and 14 (29%) had at least one reported health condition, resulting in a total of 26 reported conditions with a median of 1.5 conditions/dog (min=1, max=5).

The median current age of all healthy dogs with a reported age (N=35) was 4 years (min=5 months, max=10 years and 1 month). 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=14) was 8 years and 6 months (min=2 years and 9 months, max=14 years and 11 months). The median age at diagnosis for all disease occurrences with a reported age at diagnosis (N=25) was 6 years and 3 months (min= 1 year, max= 12 years and 7 months, Figure 4). Table 3 shows the disease conditions for the Hovawart breed. Age at diagnosis is presented for the most common disease conditions (Figure 5).

Table 2. Distribution of gender and neuter status for the 49 Hovawart breed with reported gender and neuter status.

Gender	Neuter status		Totals
	Intact	Neutered	
Female	14	12	26 (53%)
Male	17	6	23 (47%)
Totals	31 (63%)	18 (37%)	49 (100%)

There was no association between gender and neuter status (P=0.1459).

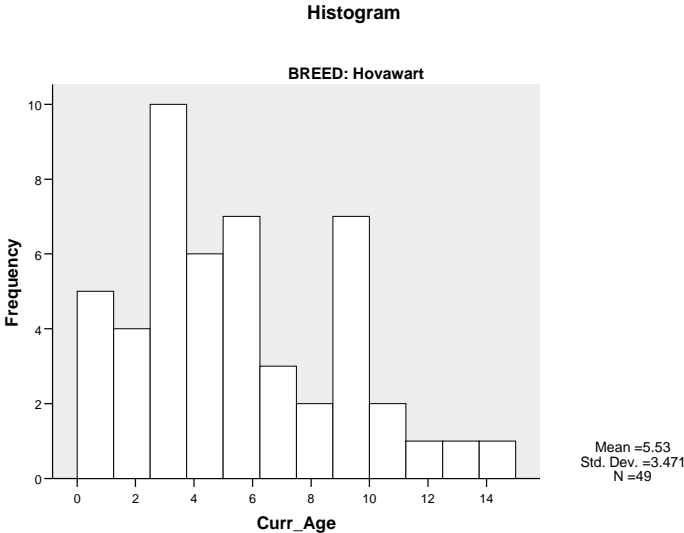


Figure 3. Histogram showing frequency of current age in years for the 49 live Hovawart breed with age reported.

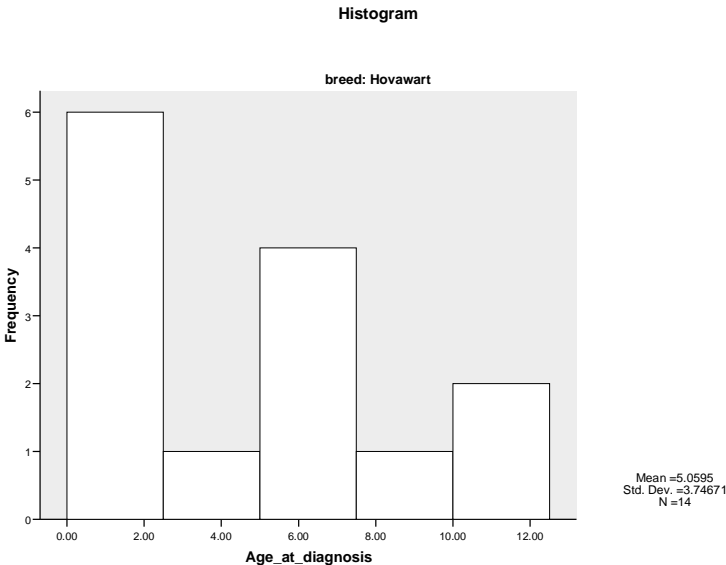


Figure 4. Histogram showing frequency of age at diagnosis for the 14 Hovawart breed with one or more disease conditions, using the youngest age at which a disease condition was first reported for those dogs with more than one disease condition or episode.

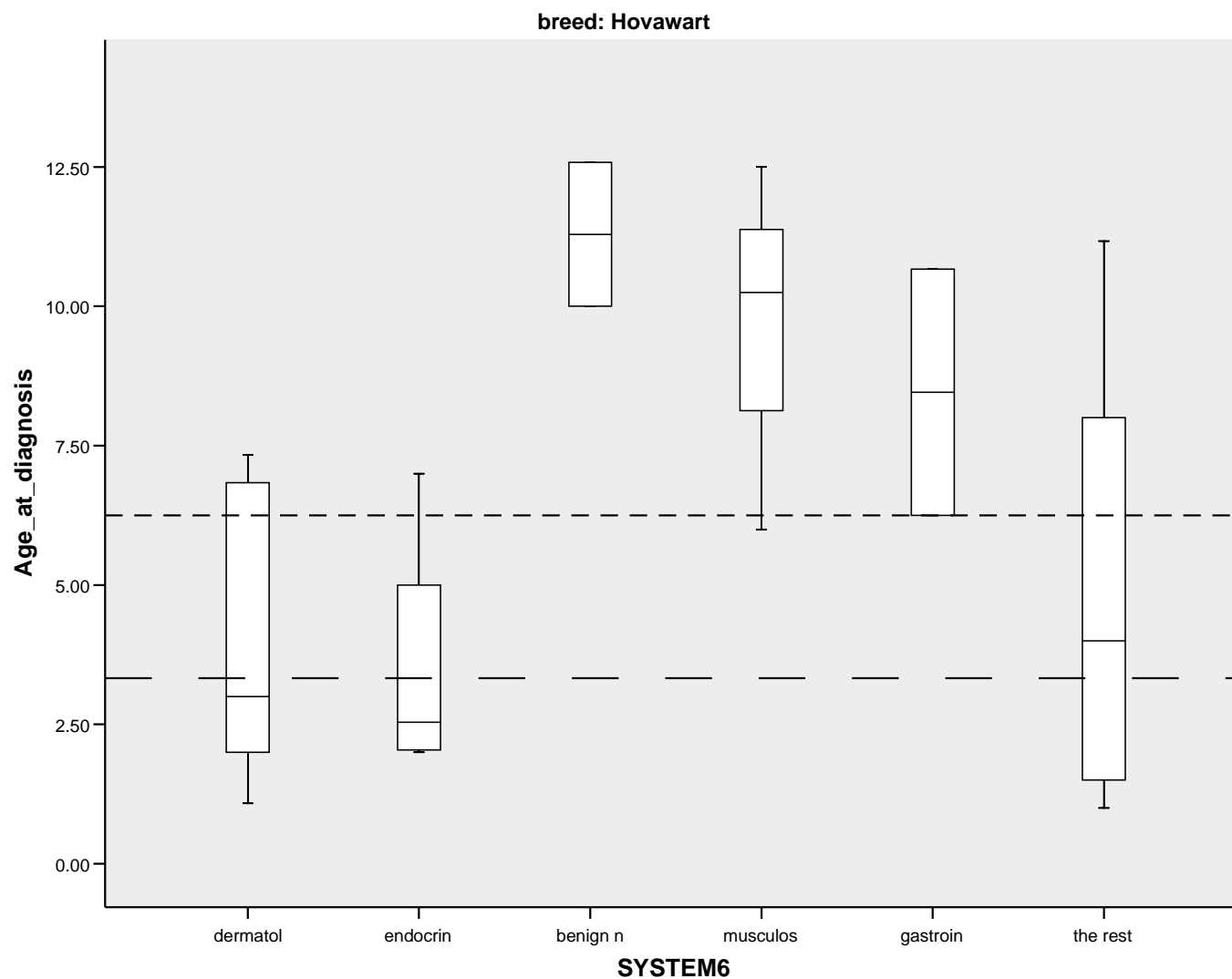


Figure 5. Box and whisker plot of age at diagnosis in years for the most common disease conditions in descending order for the Hovawart breed (N=14 dogs with 25 conditions with age reported). The dashed line (---) is the overall median age at diagnosis for all dogs in the survey and the dotted line (----) is the overall median age at diagnosis for the Hovawart 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 Hovawart breed.

Disease condition	All conditions		Most common specific conditions in descending order
	N	%	
1 Dermatologic	5	19.2	Mites (cheyletiella); pyotraumatic dermatitis; ringworm; sebaceous cyst; seborrhoea
2 Endocrine	4	15.4	Hypothyroidism
3 Benign neoplasia	3	11.5	Lipoma; histiocytoma
4 Musculoskeletal	3	11.5	Arthritis (unspecified>stifle)
5 Aural	2	7.7	Otitis externa
6 Gastrointestinal	2	7.7	Gastric dilatation/volvulus (GDV); megaesophagus
7 Anal gland	1	3.8	Anal sacculitis
8 Dental	1	3.8	Dental disease
9 Neurologic	1	3.8	Seizures
10 Ocular	1	3.8	Cataracts
11 Reproductive	1	3.8	False pregnancy
12 Respiratory	1	3.8	Pneumonia
13 Trauma	1	3.8	Forelimb
Total	26	100.0	