

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

Summary results of the
Purebred Dog Health Survey
for
American Cocker Spaniels

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%.

American Cocker Spaniels

A total of 198 forms were sent out and 33 were returned, representing 132 live dogs. This breed had a 16.7 % response rate (33/198) and it represented 0.24% of all returns (33/13,741).

Mortality data

A total of 60 deaths were reported and this represents 0.38 % of all deaths reported in the survey (60/15,881). The median age at death for American Cocker Spaniels was 10 years and 4 months (min = 2 months, max = 17 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 American Cocker Spaniels. Age at death is presented for the most common causes of death (Figure 2).

Table 1. Causes of death by organ system/category for American Cocker Spaniels.

Cause of death	No. of deaths	% of deaths	Most common specific causes in descending order
1 Cancer	14	23.3	Type unspecified
2 Old age	12	20.0	Old age & age combinations
3 Cardiac	5	8.3	Heart failure, heart defect unspecified, heart attack, CMP
4 Immune mediated	5	8.3	Haemolytic anaemia
5 Hepatic	4	6.7	Chronic liver failure
6 Neurologic	3	5.0	Spinal unspecified, epilepsy, intervertebral disc disease
7 Combinations	2	3.3	
8 Endocrine	2	3.3	Hypothyroidism, diabetes mellitus
9 Gastrointestinal	2	3.3	Intussusception, unspecified
10 Ocular	2	3.3	Glaucoma, blindness
11 Urologic	2	3.3	Amyloidosis, chronic kidney failure
12 Behaviour	1	1.7	Aggression
13 Cerebral vascular	1	1.7	Stroke or cerebral vascular accident
14 Poisoning	1	1.7	
15 Sudden death	1	1.7	
16 Systemic	1	1.7	
17 Trauma	1	1.7	
18 Unknown	1	1.7	
Total	60	100.0	

Cardiac: CMP=cardiomyopathy

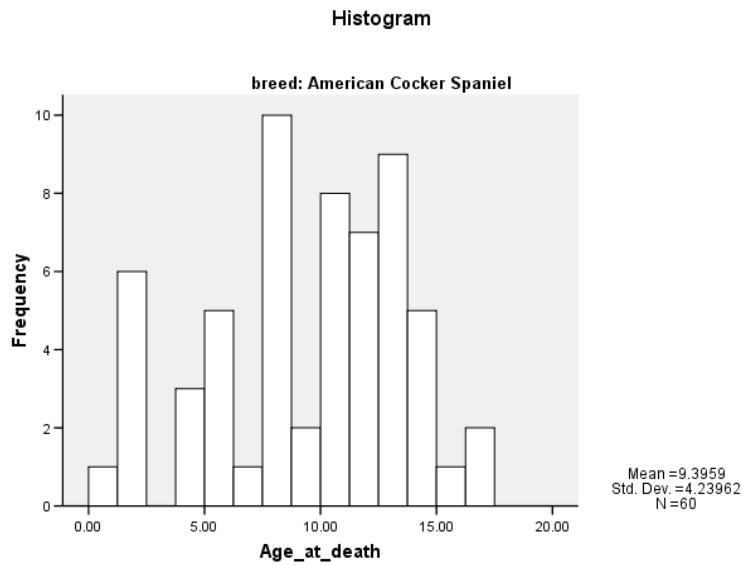


Figure 1. Histogram showing the frequency (as number of dogs) of age at death (in years) for the 60 American Cocker Spaniel deaths with age at death reported.

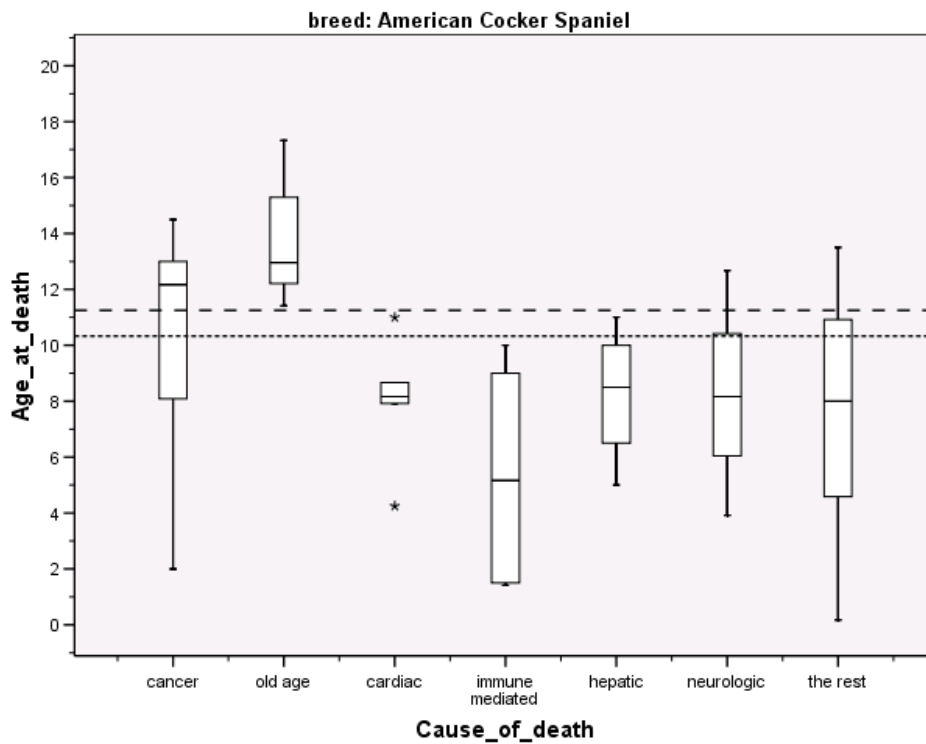


Figure 2. Box and whisker plot of age at death in years for the most common causes of death in American Cocker Spaniels (N=60). The dashed line (---) is the overall median age at death for all dogs in the survey and the dotted line (----) is the overall median age of death for American Cocker Spaniels. The solid line within each grey box represents the median age at death from the condition.

Morbidity data

The median current age of the 132 live dogs with a reported age was 4 years and 3 months (min=4 months, max=12 years and 9 months, Figure 3). Health information was reported for 132 live dogs of which 75 (57%) were healthy and 57 (43%) had at least one reported health condition, resulting in a total of 89 reported conditions with a median of 1 condition/dog (min=1, max=6).

The median current age of all healthy dogs with a reported age (N=75) was 3 years and 2 months (min=4 months, max=11 years and 10 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=57) was 5 years and 8 months (min=9 months, max=12 years and 9 months). The median age at diagnosis for all disease occurrences with a reported age at diagnosis (N=79) was 3 years (min= 3 months, max= 12 years, Figure 4). Table 3 shows the disease conditions for American Cocker Spaniels. Age at diagnosis is presented for the most common disease conditions (Figure 5).

Table 2. Distribution of gender and neuter status for 132 American Cocker Spaniels with reported gender and neuter status.

Gender	Neuter status		Totals
	Intact	Neutered	
Female	69	17	86 (65%)
Male	41	5	46 (35%)
Totals	110 (83%)	22 (17%)	132 (100%)

There was no association between gender and neuter status (P=0.2).

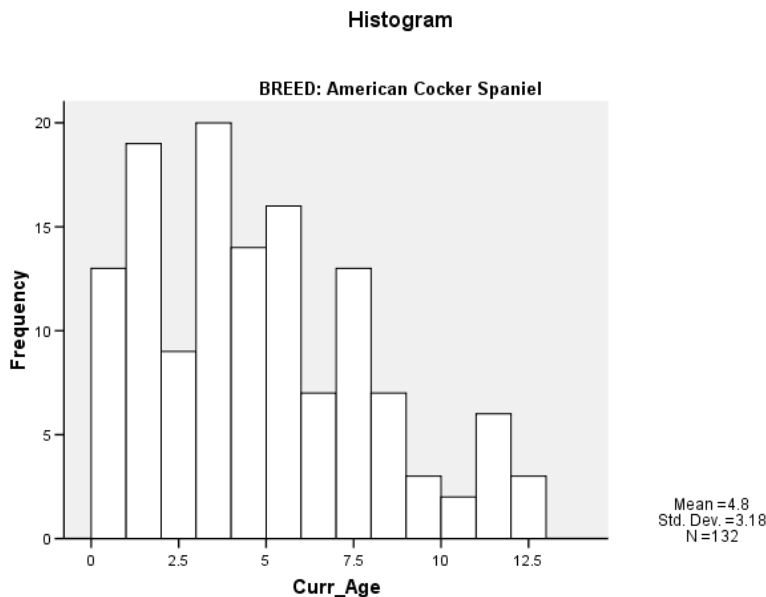


Figure 3. Histogram showing frequency of current age in years for the 132 live American Cocker Spaniels with age reported.

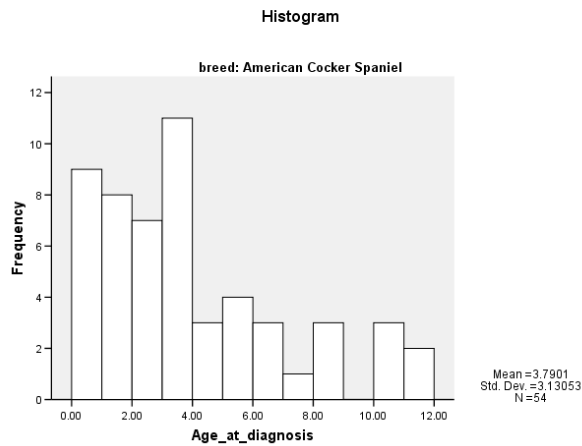


Figure 4. Histogram showing frequency of age at diagnosis for the 54 American Cocker Spaniels with one or more disease conditions, using the youngest age at which a disease condition was first reported for those dogs with more than one disease condition or episode.

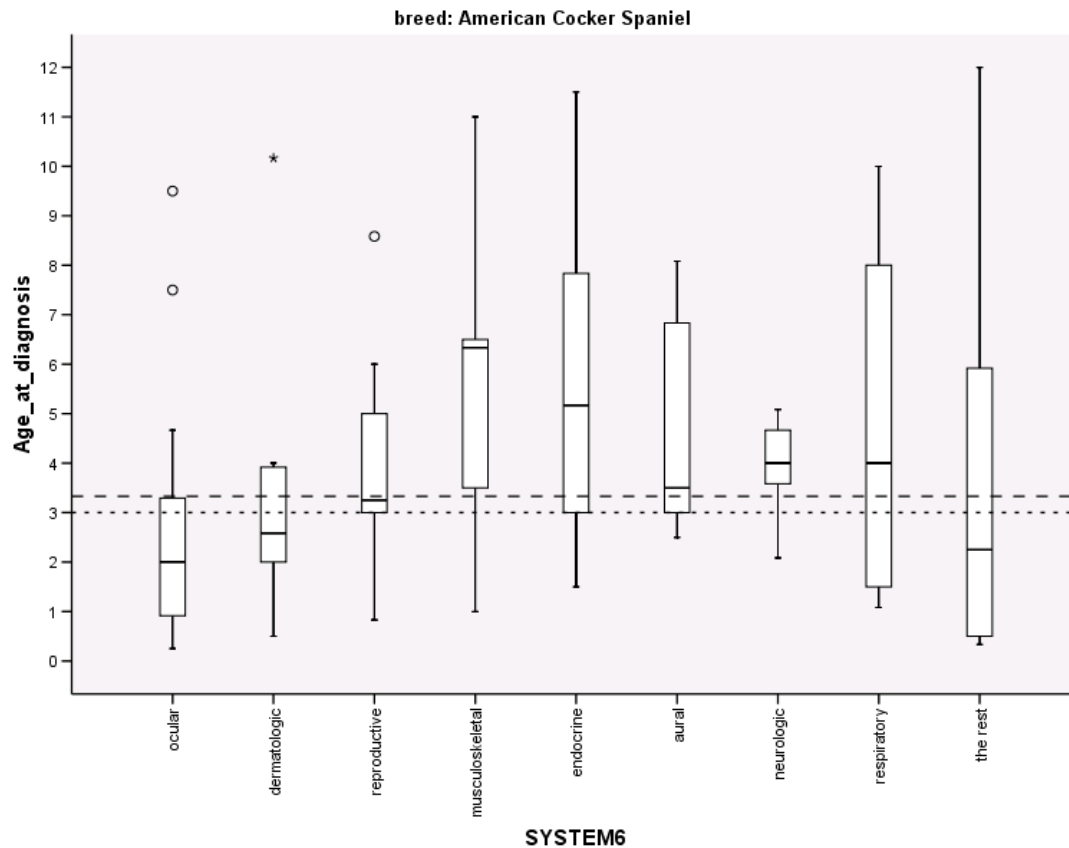


Figure 5. Box and whisker plot of age at diagnosis in years for the most common disease conditions in descending order for American Cocker Spaniels (N=79 conditions with age reported). The dashed line (---) is the overall median age at diagnosis for all dogs in the survey and the dotted line (----) is the overall median age at diagnosis for American Cocker Spaniels. 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 American Cocker Spaniels.

Disease condition	All conditions		Prevalence	Most common specific conditions in descending order
	N	%	%	
1 Ocular	20	22.5	15.15	MRD, distichiasis, epiphora, cherry eye, cataract, KCS
2 Dermatologic	12	13.5	9.09	Dermatitis, seborrhea, pyoderma, fungal skin infection, cheyletiellosis, calcinosis circumscripta
3 Gastrointestinal	9	10.1	6.82	Weight loss, pancreatitis, diarrhoea, colitis (chronic large bowel diarrhea)
4 Reproductive	9	10.1	6.82	Uterine inertia (failure to push), pyometra, irregular heats, infertility, false pregnancy
5 Musculoskeletal	8	9.0	6.06	Spondylitis/spondylosis, patellar luxation, arthritis, cruciate ligament rupture, hip dysplasia
6 Endocrine	6	6.7	4.55	Hypothyroidism, Addison's disease (hypoadrenocorticism)
7 Aural	5	5.6	3.79	Otitis media, Otitis externa
8 Neurologic	5	5.6	3.79	Seizures or fits or epilepsy idiopathic, intervertebral disc disease
9 Respiratory	5	5.6	3.79	Noisy breathing, kennel cough, asthma
10 Cancer	2	2.2	1.52	Type unspecified
11 Cardiac	2	2.2	1.52	Heart murmur
12 Immune mediated	2	2.2	1.52	Food allergy
13 Urologic	2	2.2	1.52	Incontinence, cystitis (bladder infection)
14 Anal gland	1	1.1	0.76	Anal sacculitis (anal gland impaction or infection or removal)
15 Unknown	1	1.1	0.76	Undiagnosed illness
Total	89	100.0	67.42	

Ocular: MRD= multifocal retinal dysplasia