

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

Summary results of the
Purebred Dog Health Survey
for Beagles

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%.

Beagles

A total of 585 forms were sent out and 177 were returned, representing 507 live dogs. This breed had a 30.3 % response rate (177/585) and it represented 1.29% of all returns (177/13,741).

Mortality data

A total of 241 deaths were reported and this represents 1.52 % of all deaths reported in the survey (241/15,881). The median age at death for Beagles was 12 years and 8 months (min = 1 year and 2 months, max = 17 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 Beagles. Age at death is presented for the most common causes of death (Figure 2).

Table 1. Causes of death by organ system/category for Beagles.

Cause of death	N	%	Most common specific causes in descending order
1 Cancer	79	32.8	Liver (type unspecified); mammary (type unspecified)
2 Old age	38	15.8	Old age unspecified; old age died or natural causes
3 Cardiac	30	12.4	Heart failure; heart attack; heart defect unspecified
4 Cerebral vascular	14	5.8	Stroke or cerebral vascular accident or infarct
5 Neurologic	14	5.8	Seizures
6 Combinations	13	5.4	Kidney failure and liver failure; multiple organ failure
7 Urologic	8	3.3	Chronic kidney failure
8 Endocrine	6	2.5	Cushings or hyperadrenocorticism; hypothyroidism
9 Unknown	6	2.5	
10 Immune mediated	5	2.1	Unspecified; AIHA; rheumatoid arthritis
11 Other	5	2.1	Other u/s; perforated spleen; purulent lymphadenitis
12 Trauma	5	2.1	Road traffic accident
13 Respiratory	4	1.7	Choked; laryngeal paralysis; respiratory failure
14 Behaviour	3	1.2	Aggression
15 Gastrointestinal	3	1.2	Gastroenteritis; gastroenteritis and cancer; pancreatitis
16 Hepatic	2	0.8	Liver failure chronic or unspecified
17 Perioperative	2	0.8	Perioperative or anaesthetic related; post-operative
18 Internal bleeding	1	0.4	
19 Ocular	1	0.4	Blind or blindness
20 Poisoning	1	0.4	
21 Senility	1	0.4	
Total	241	100.0	

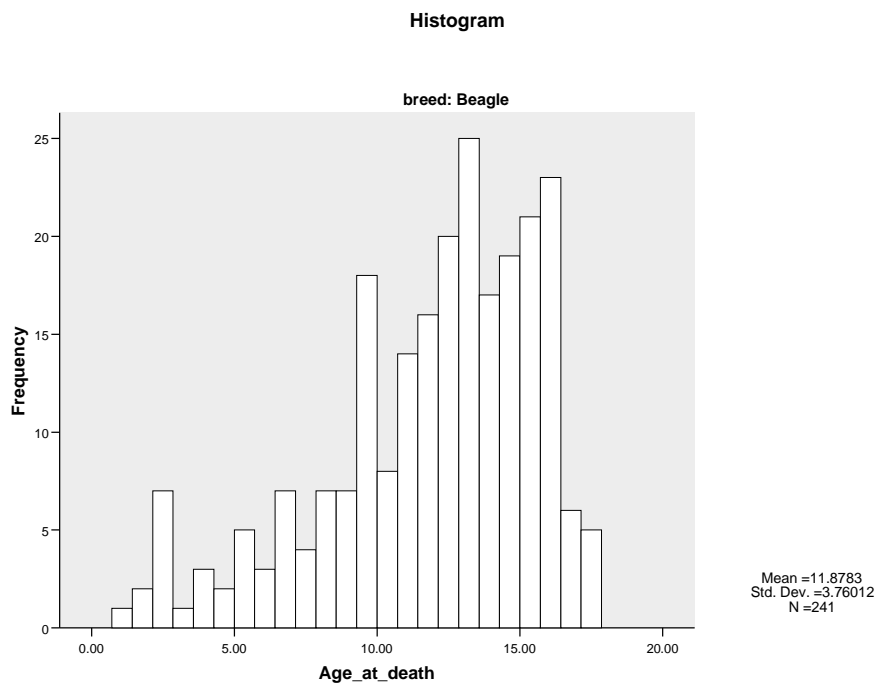


Figure 1. Histogram showing the frequency (as number of dogs) of age at death (in years) for the 241 Beagle deaths with age at death reported.

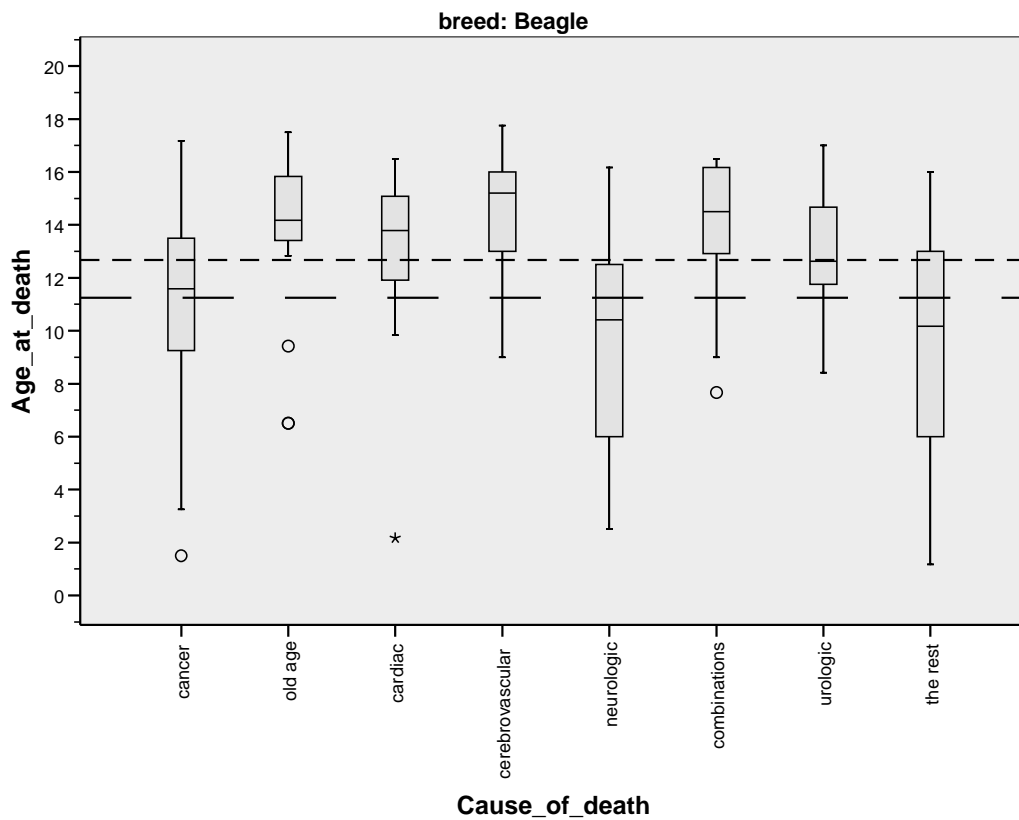


Figure 2. Box and whisker plot of age at death in years for the most common causes of death in Beagles (N=241). The dashed line (---) is the overall median age at death for all dogs in the survey and the dotted line (----) is the overall median age of death for Beagles. The solid line within each grey box represents the median age at death from the condition.

Morbidity data

The median current age of the 507 live dogs with a reported age was 4 years and 7 months (min=2 months, max=16 years and 11 months, Figure 3). Health information was reported for 507 live dogs of which 324 (64%) were healthy and 183 (36%) had at least one reported health condition, resulting in a total of 279 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=324) was 3 years and 8 months (min=2 months, max=15 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=183) was 6 years and 9 months (min=4 months, max=16 years and 11 months). The median age at diagnosis for all disease occurrences with a reported age at diagnosis (N=271) was 3 years and 3 months (min= 2 months, max= 16 years and 1 month, Figure 4). Table 3 shows the disease conditions for Beagles. Age at diagnosis is presented for the most common disease conditions (Figure 5).

Table 2. Distribution of gender and neuter status for 505 Beagles with reported gender and neuter status.

Gender	Neuter status		Totals
	Intact	Neutered	
Female	212	117	329 (65%)
Male	149	27	176 (35%)
Totals	361 (71%)	144 (29%)	505 (100%)

Significantly more females were neutered (P=0.0000).

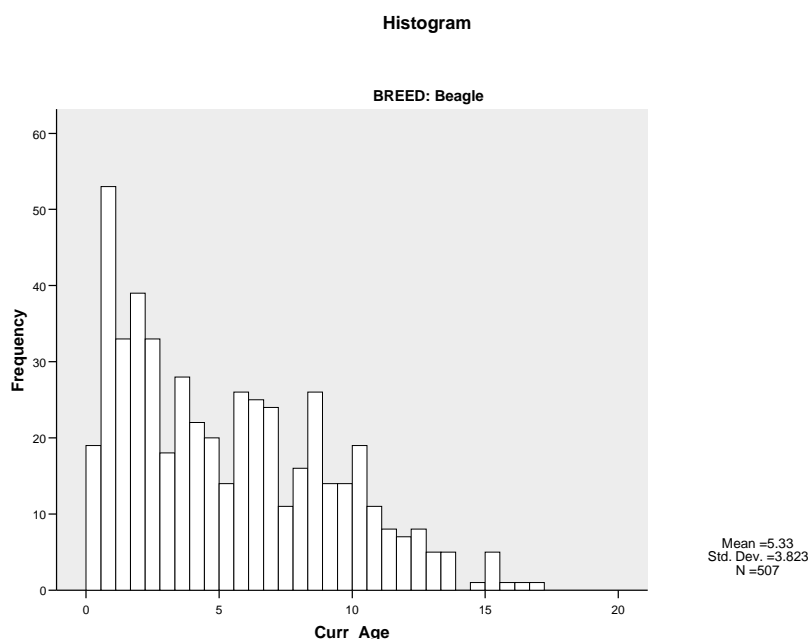


Figure 3. Histogram showing frequency of current age in years for the 507 live Beagles with age reported.

Histogram

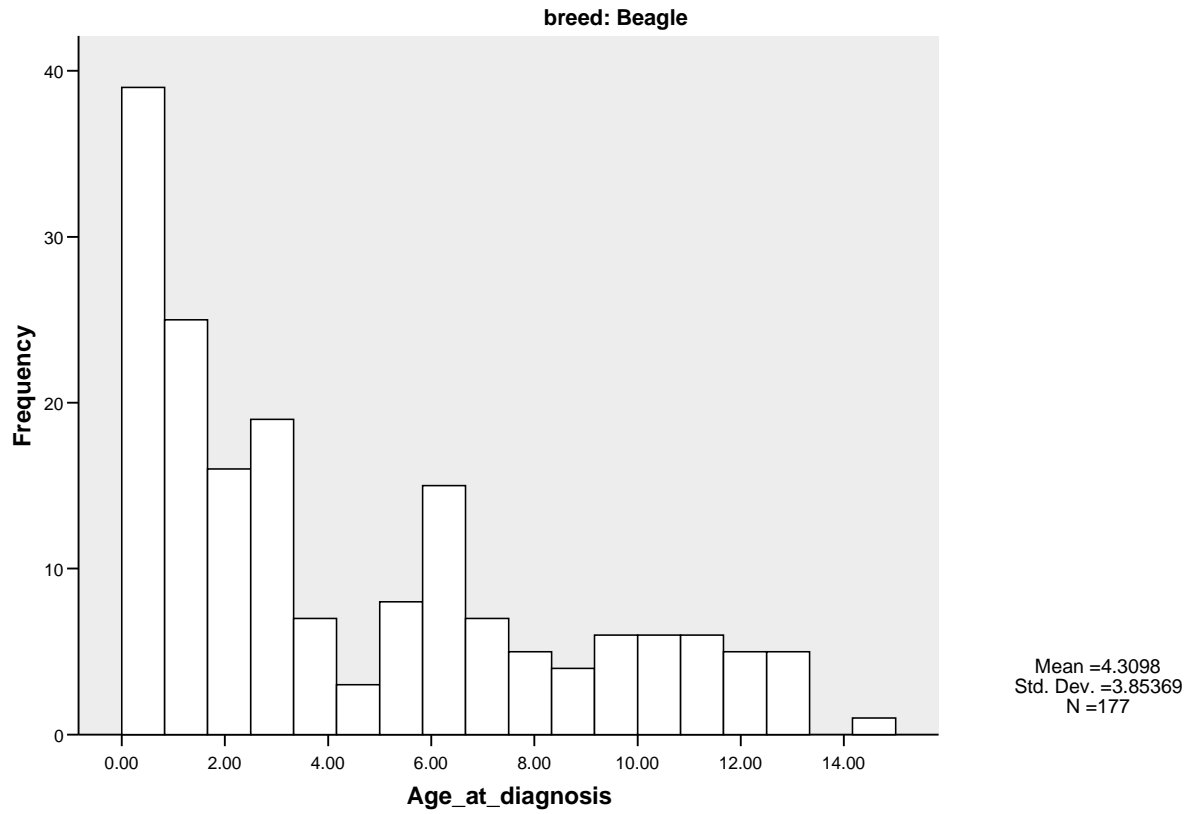


Figure 4. Histogram showing frequency of age at diagnosis for the 177 Beagles with one or more disease conditions, using the youngest age at which a disease condition was first reported for those dogs with more than one disease condition or episode.

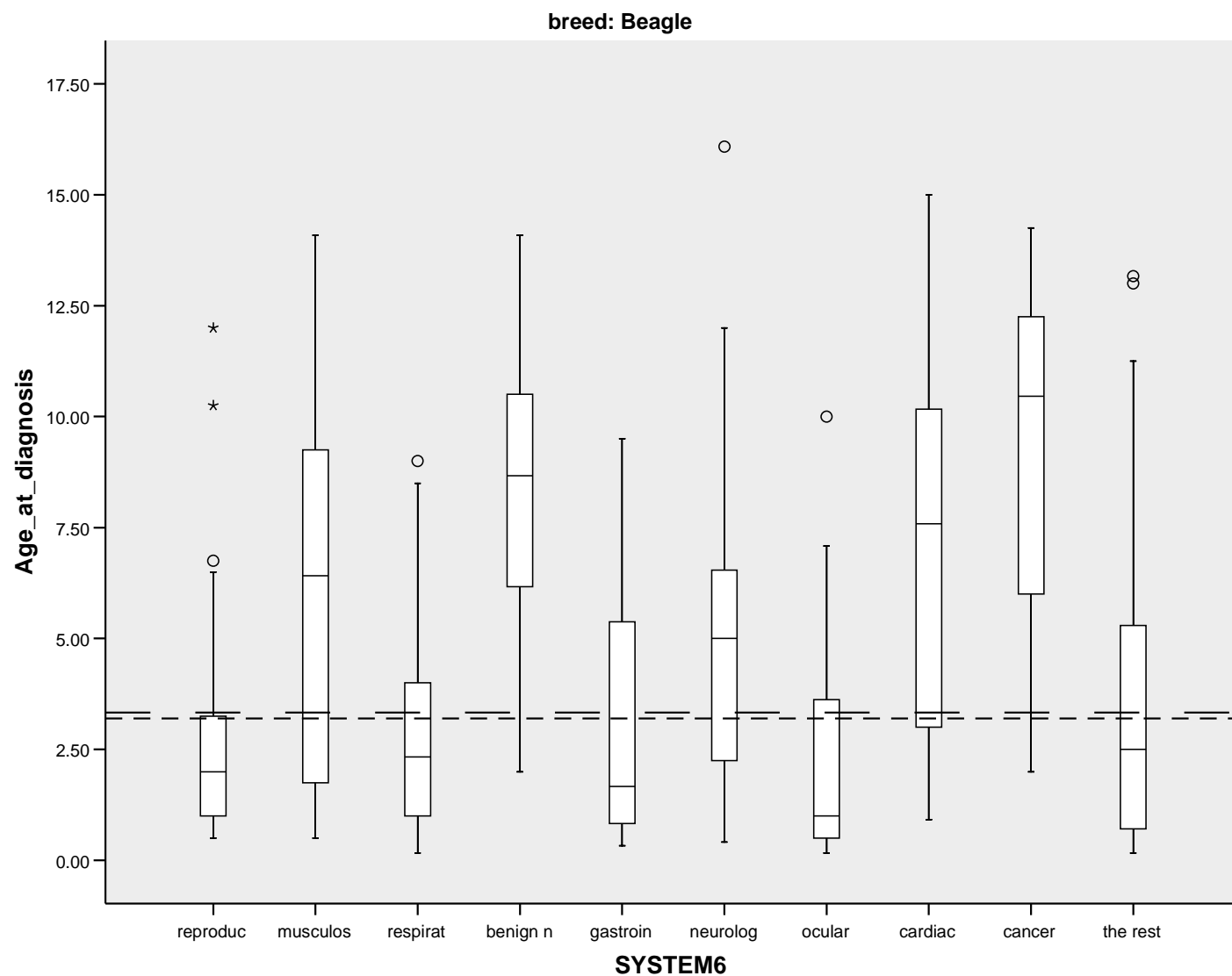


Figure 5. Box and whisker plot of age at diagnosis in years for the most common disease conditions in descending order for Beagles (N=183 dogs with 271 conditions with age reported). The dashed line (---) is the overall median age at diagnosis for all dogs in the survey and the dotted line (----) is the overall median age at diagnosis for Beagles. 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 Beagles.

Disease condition	All conditions		Most common specific conditions in descending order
	N	%	
1 Reproductive	40	14.3	False pregnancy; dystochia (uterine inertia>stuck puppy); infertility; prostatomegaly; pyometra
2 Musculoskeletal	28	10.0	CHD; arthritis; CLR; stiff joints
3 Respiratory	25	9.0	Kennel cough; noisy breathing; chronic coughing
4 Benign neoplasia	24	8.6	Lipoma; unspecified
5 Gastrointestinal	24	8.6	Colitis; diarrhoea; vomiting; campylobacter
6 Neurologic	24	8.6	Idiopathic epilepsy; meningitis; IVDD
7 Ocular	23	8.2	Epiphora; blocked tear duct; cataracts; cherry eye; red eye
8 Cardiac	18	6.5	Heart murmur (unspecified>grade 1> grade 2=grade 4); CHF; slow heart rate
9 Cancer	14	5.0	Type unspecified; MCT
10 Immune mediated	11	3.9	Atopy; food allergy; gluten-sensitive enteropathy; unspecified
11 Dental	8	2.9	Retained puppy teeth; dental disease
12 Dermatologic	8	2.9	Dermatitis; mites (cheyletiella=demodex=unspecified)
13 Urologic	8	2.9	Cystitis; incontinence
14 Unknown	5	1.8	Undiagnosed illness
15 Anal gland	4	1.4	Anal sacculitis
16 Aural	4	1.4	Excessive ear wax; otitis externa; ear mites
17 Endocrine	4	1.4	Cushing's disease; diabetes mellitus; hypothyroidism; weight gain (unspecified)
18 Uncode and other	4	1.4	Pyrexia; lifelessness
19 Trauma	2	0.7	Unspecified; musculoskeletal
20 Hepatic	1	0.4	Acute liver failure
Total	279	100.0	