

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

Summary results of the
Purebred Dog Health Survey
for Bearded Collies

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%.

Bearded Collies

A total of 729 forms were sent out and 239 were returned, representing 563 live dogs. This breed had a 32.8 % response rate (239/729) and it represented 1.74% of all returns (239/13,741).

Mortality data

A total of 278 deaths were reported and this represents 1.75 % of all deaths reported in the survey (278/15,881). The median age at death for Bearded Collies was 13 years and 6 months (min = 4 months, max = 19 years and 6 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 Bearded Collies. Age at death is presented for the most common causes of death (Figure 2).

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

Cause of death	N	%	Most common specific causes in descending order
1 Old age	72	25.9	Old age
2 Cancer	54	19.4	Unspecified; brain tumour; liver (type unspecified)
3 Cerebral vascular	26	9.4	Stroke or cerebral vascular accident (CVA) or infarct
4 Urologic	22	7.9	Chronic kidney failure
5 Cardiac	16	5.8	Heart failure; heart attack
6 Combinations	16	5.8	Cardiomyopathy & arthritis; kidney failure & liver failure
7 Hepatic	9	3.2	Liver failure chronic or unspecified
8 Neurologic	9	3.2	Seizures
9 Other	8	2.9	Uncodeable
10 Trauma	8	2.9	Road traffic accident or RTA; unspecified trauma
11 Behaviour	6	2.2	Aggression
12 Immune mediated	6	2.2	Unspec.; AIHA; rheumatoid arthritis; thrombocytopenia
13 Gastrointestinal	5	1.8	
14 Endocrine	3	1.1	Addison's disease or hypoadrenocorticism
15 Musculoskeletal	3	1.1	Arthritis; atrophic myositis
16 Unknown	3	1.1	
17 Dermatologic	2	0.7	Anal furunculosis; unspecified
18 Infection	2	0.7	Viral infection; deep seated infection of a wound
19 Reproductive	2	0.7	Pyometra; vaginal polyp, major haemorrhage
20 Collapse	1	0.4	
21 Perioperative	1	0.4	Perioperative or anaesthetic related
22 Pining	1	0.4	
23 Poisoning	1	0.4	
24 Respiratory	1	0.4	Pneumonia
25 Senility	1	0.4	
Total	278	100.0	

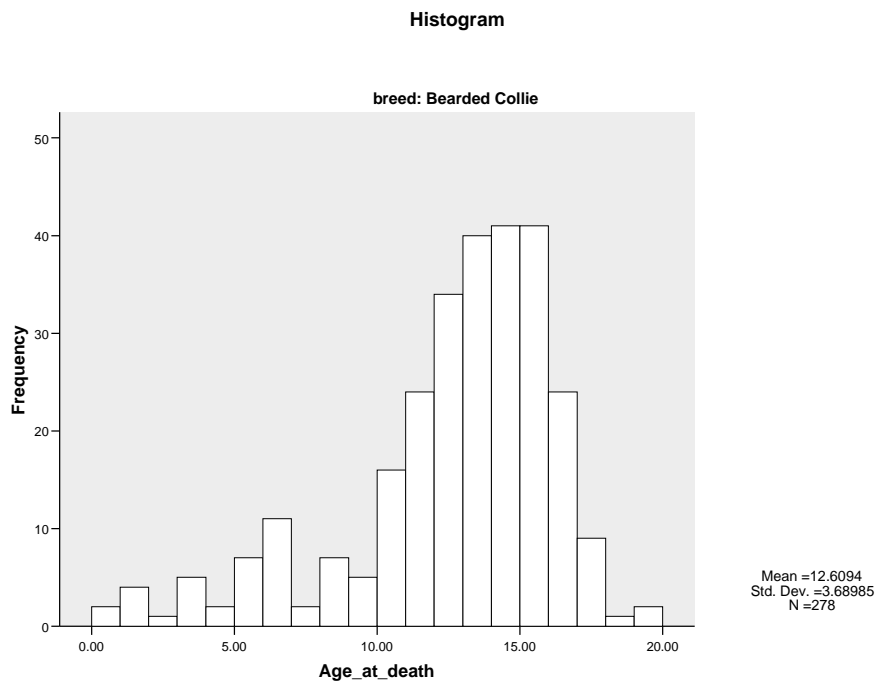


Figure 1. Histogram showing the frequency (as number of dogs) of age at death (in years) for the 278 Bearded Collie deaths with age at death reported.

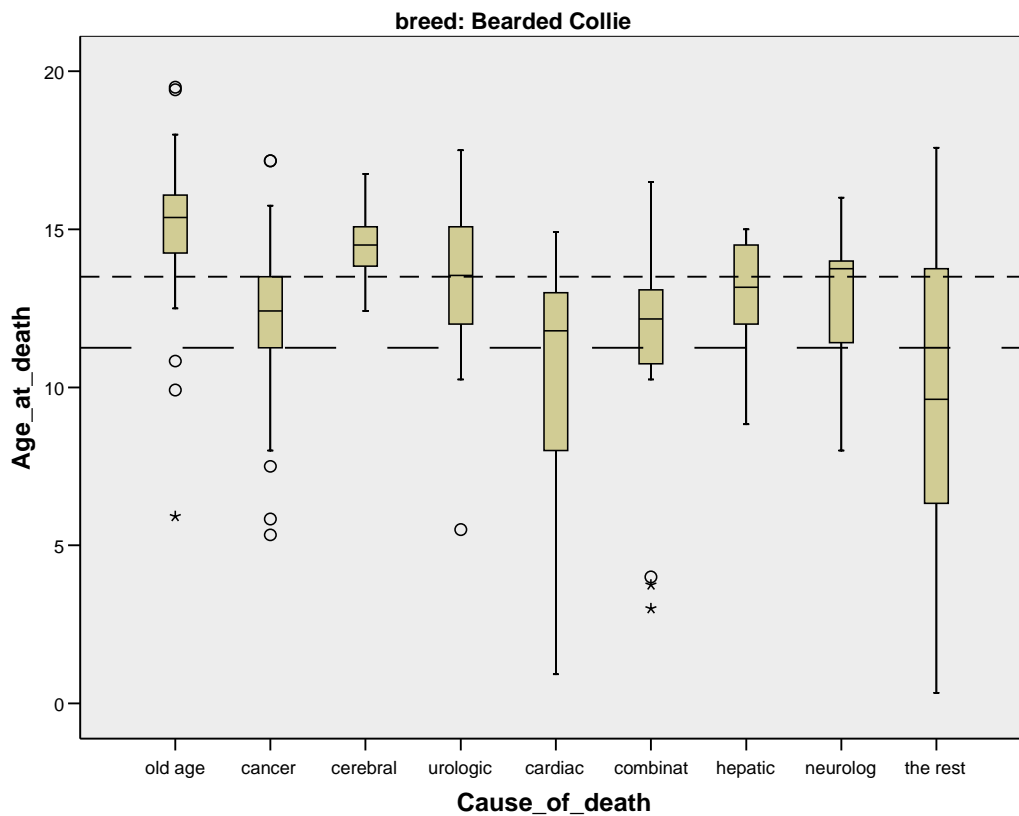


Figure 2. Box and whisker plot of age at death in years for the most common causes of death in Bearded Collies (N=278). The dashed line (---) is the overall median age at death for all dogs in the survey and the dotted line (----) is the overall median age of death for Bearded Collies. The solid line within each grey box represents the median age at death from the condition.

Morbidity data

The median current age of the 563 live dogs with a reported age was 6 years and 6 months (min=2 months, max=16 years and 6 months, Figure 3). Health information was reported for 563 live dogs of which 324 (58%) were healthy and 239 (42%) had at least one reported health condition, resulting in a total of 437 reported conditions with a median of 1 condition/dog (min=1, max=14).

The median current age of all healthy dogs with a reported age (N=324) was 5 years and 2 months (min=2 months, max=16 years and 6 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=239) was 8 years and 10 months (min=6 months, max=16 years and 2 months). The median age at diagnosis for all disease occurrences with a reported age at diagnosis (N=427) was 4 years and 9 months (min= 2 months, max= 15 years and 6 months, Figure 4). Table 3 shows the disease conditions for Bearded Collies. Age at diagnosis is presented for the most common disease conditions (Figure 5).

Table 2. Distribution of gender and neuter status for 558 Bearded Collies with reported gender and neuter status.

Gender	Neuter status		Totals
	Intact	Neutered	
Female	196	138	334 (60%)
Male	160	64	224 (40%)
Totals	356 (64%)	202 (36%)	558 (100%)

Significantly more females were neutered (P=0.0021).

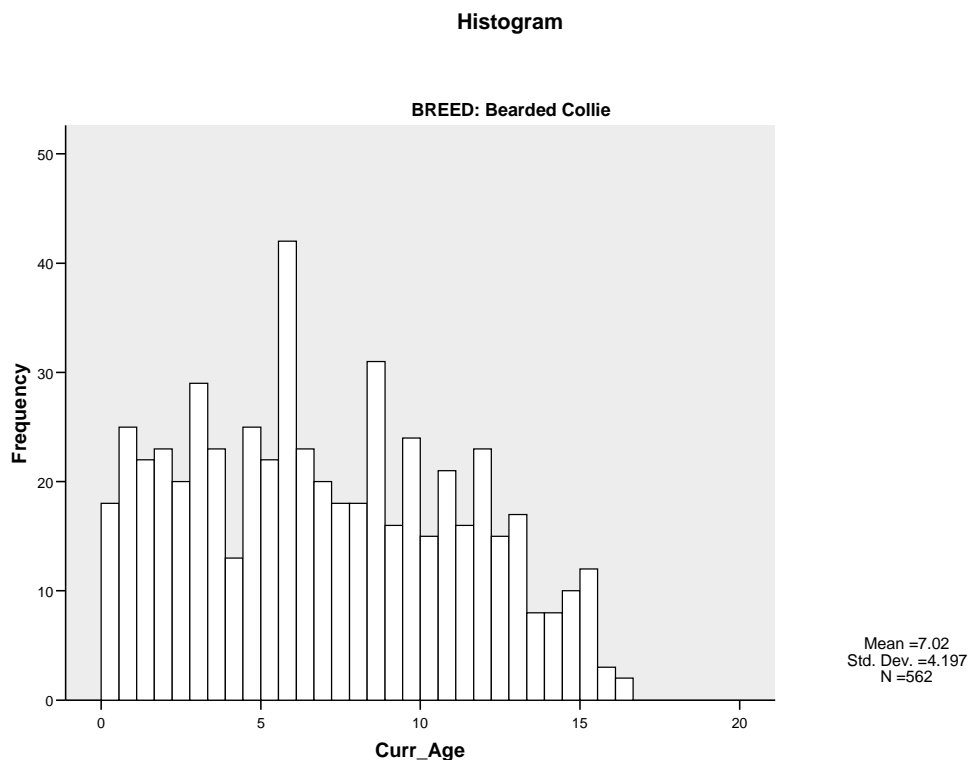


Figure 3. Histogram showing frequency of current age in years for the 562 live Bearded Collies with age reported.

Histogram

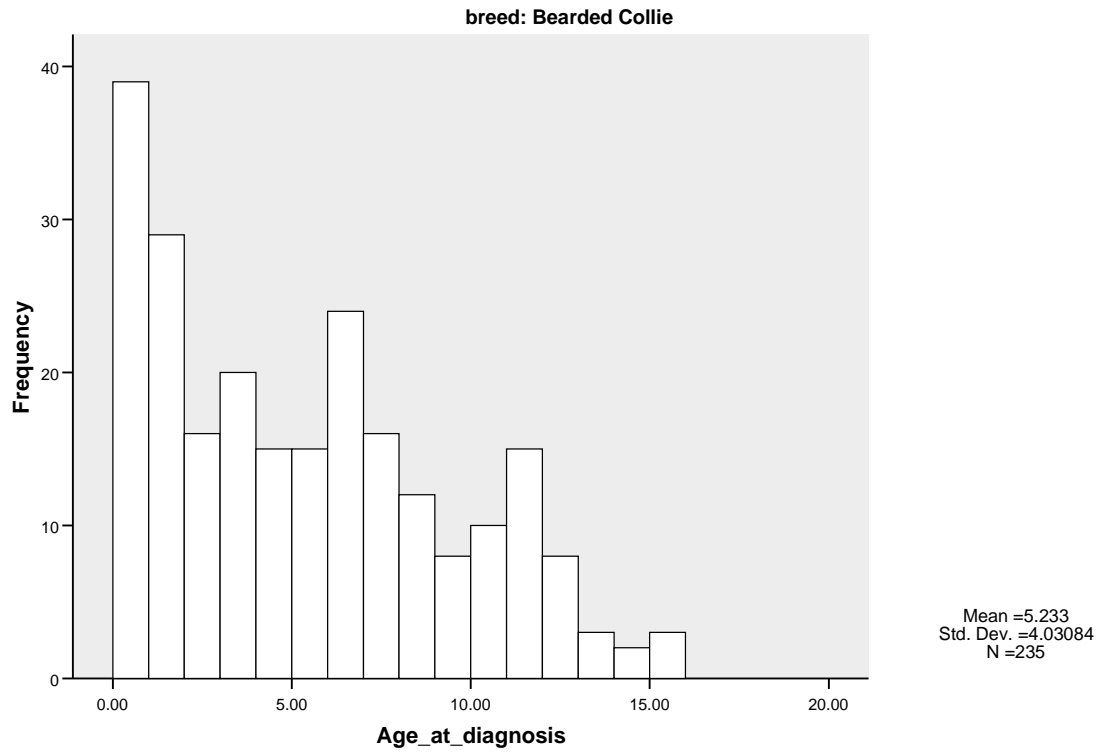


Figure 4. Histogram showing frequency of age at diagnosis for the 235 Bearded Collies with one or more disease conditions, using the youngest age at which a disease condition was first reported for those dogs with more than one disease condition or episode.

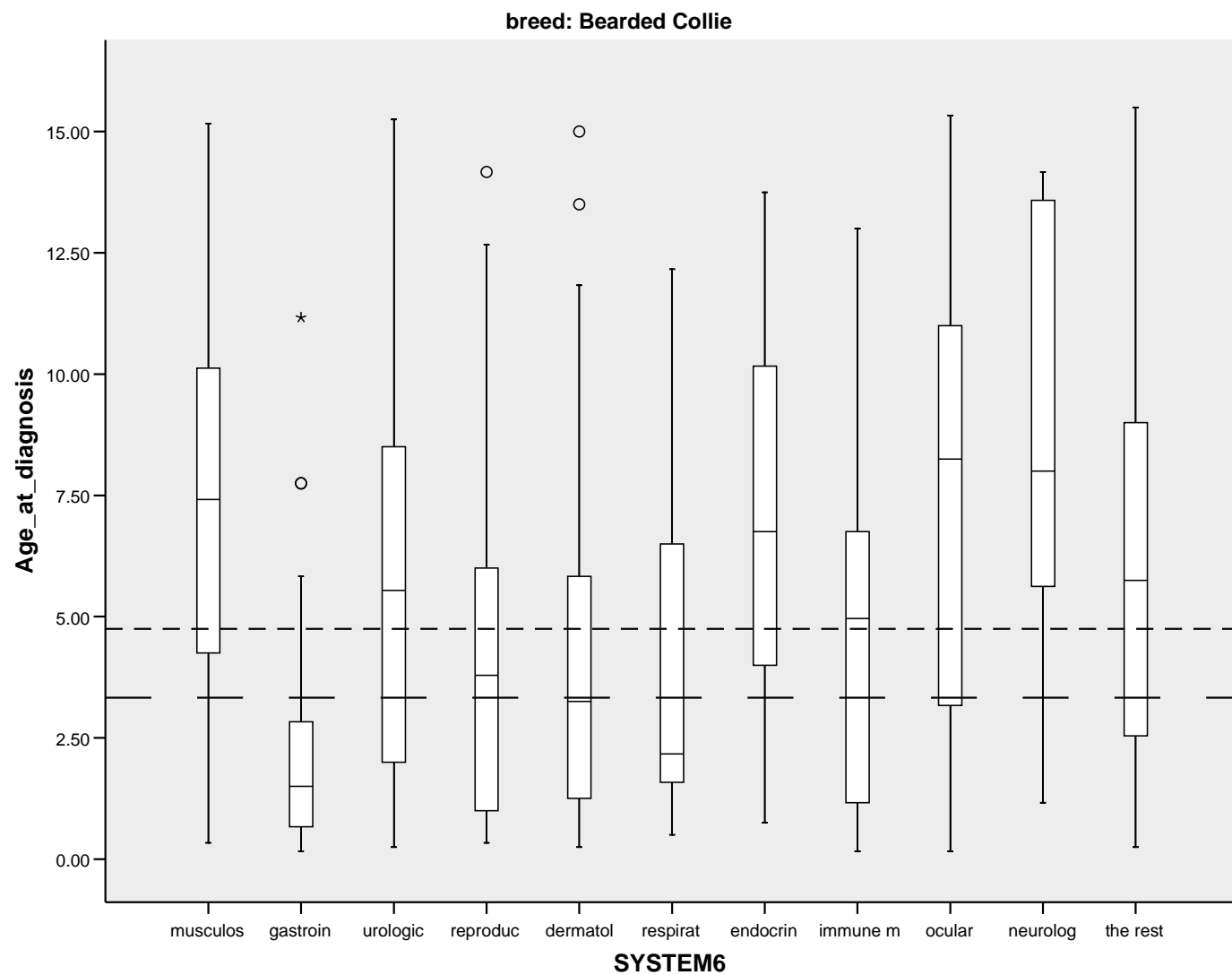


Figure 5. Box and whisker plot of age at diagnosis in years for the most common disease conditions in descending order for Bearded Collies (N=239 dogs with 427 conditions with age reported). The dashed line (---) is the overall median age at diagnosis for all dogs in the survey and the dotted line (----) is the overall median age at diagnosis for Bearded Collies. 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 Bearded Collies.

Disease condition	All conditions		Most common specific conditions in descending order
	N	%	
1 Musculoskeletal	63	14.4	Arthritis; CLR; lameness (forelimb>hindlimb=unspecified); CHD; OCD
2 Gastrointestinal	55	12.6	Colitis; diarrhoea; campylobacter; IBD; regurgitation; vomiting; EPI
3 Urologic	43	9.8	Cystitis; incontinence; cystouroliths (unspecified>calcium oxalate=struvite)
4 Reproductive	42	9.6	Pyometra; infertility; false pregnancy; cryptorchid; vaginitis
5 Dermatologic	41	9.4	Dermatitis; mites (sarcoptes>unspecified); pyotraumatic dermatitis
6 Respiratory	33	7.6	Kennel cough; noisy breathing; coughing
7 Endocrine	26	5.9	Hypothyroidism; Addisons disease
8 Immune mediated	22	5.0	Flea allergy; food allergy; gluten-sensitive enteropathy; AIHA
9 Ocular	17	3.9	Cataracts; conjunctivitis; blocked tear ducts; KCS
10 Unknown	17	3.9	Unknown illness
11 Neurologic	15	3.4	Deafness; IVDD; seizures
12 Dental	11	2.5	Dental disease; defect other than extra teeth; retained puppy teeth
13 Benign neoplasia	8	1.8	Lipoma
14 Cancer	8	1.8	Type unspecified; SCC; carcinoma
15 Cardiac	8	1.8	Heart murmur (unspecified>grade 2=no clinical signs); cardiomyopathy unspecified
16 Behaviour	6	1.4	Unspecified
17 Aural	5	1.1	Otitis externa
18 Trauma	5	1.1	Musculoskeletal; neurologic; unspecified
19 Uncode and other	5	1.1	Hernia; unspecified; obesity
20 Anal gland	3	0.7	Anal sacculitis
21 Haematopoietic	3	0.7	Unspecified bleeding disorder; anaemia (unspecified)
22 Cerebrovascular	1	0.2	Stroke or cerebral vascular accident
Total	437	100.0	