

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

Summary results of the
Purebred Dog Health Survey
for Brittanys

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%.

Brittanys

A total of 225 forms were sent out and 59 were returned, representing 113 live dogs. This breed had a 26.2 % response rate (59/225) and it represented 0.43% of all returns (59/13,741).

Mortality data

A total of 28 deaths were reported and this represents 0.18 % of all deaths reported in the survey (28/15,881). The median age at death for Brittanys was 12 years and 11 months (min = 8 months, max = 16 years and 1 month) and this was higher than the overall median of 11 years and 3 months (Figure 1). Table 1 shows the causes of death for Brittanys. Age at death is presented for the most common causes of death (Figure 2).

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

Cause of death	N	%	Most common specific causes in descending order
1 Old age	6	21.4	Old age
2 Cancer	5	17.9	Unspecified; lymphoma
3 Cerebral vascular	3	10.7	Stroke or cerebral vascular accident
4 Combinations	3	10.7	
5 Neurologic	2	7.1	Seizures
6 Trauma	2	7.1	Road traffic accident
7 Behaviour	1	3.6	Aggression
8 Cardiac	1	3.6	Heart failure
9 Endocrine	1	3.6	Cushings or hyperadrenocorticism
10 Hepatic	1	3.6	Acute liver failure
11 Ocular	1	3.6	Blind
12 Other	1	3.6	Uncodeable
13 Unknown	1	3.6	
Total	28	100.0	

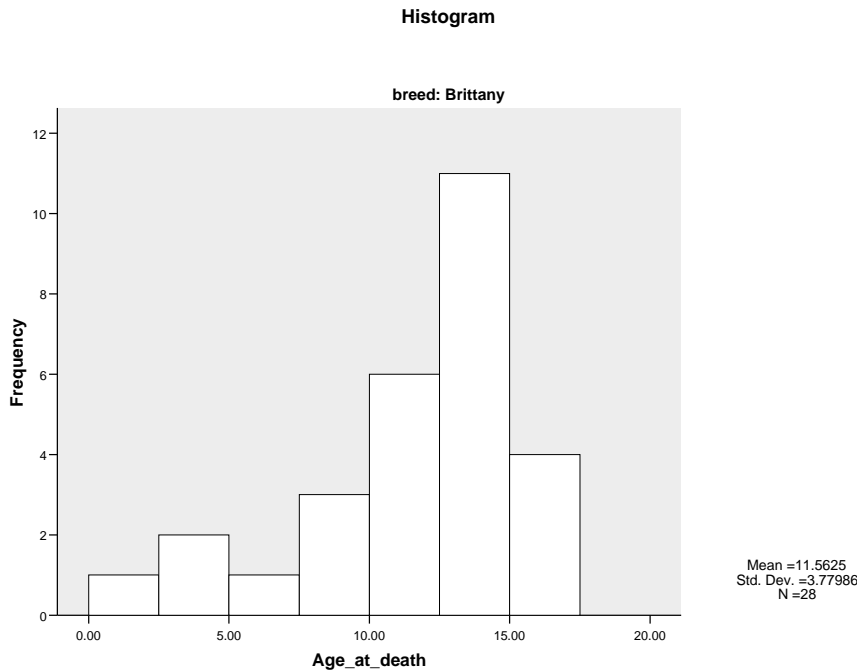


Figure 1. Histogram showing the frequency (as number of dogs) of age at death (in years) for the 28 Brittany deaths with age at death reported.

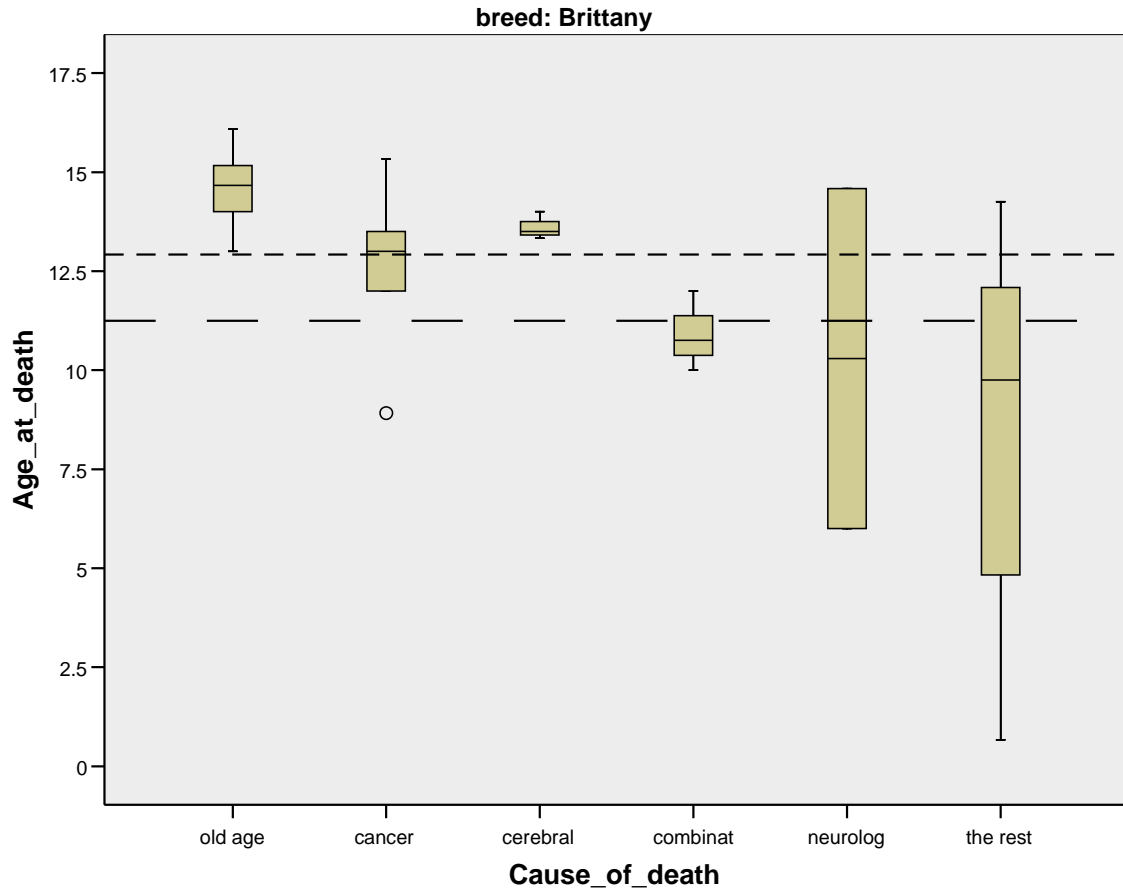


Figure 2. Box and whisker plot of age at death in years for the most common causes of death in Brittanys (N=28). The dashed line (---) is the overall median age at death for all dogs in the survey and the dotted line (----) is the overall median age of death for Brittanys. The solid line within each grey box represents the median age at death from the condition.

Morbidity data

The median current age of the 113 live dogs with a reported age was 5 years and 10 months (min=2 months, max=16 years and 4 months, Figure 3). Health information was reported for 113 live dogs of which 74 (65%) were healthy and 39 (35%) had at least one reported health condition, resulting in a total of 51 reported conditions with a median of 1 condition/dog (min=1, max=3).

The median current age of all healthy dogs with a reported age (N=74) was 5 years and 1 month (min=2 months, max=16 years and 4 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=38) was 7 years and 6 months (min=8 months, max=13 years and 2 months). The median age at diagnosis for all disease occurrences with a reported age at diagnosis (N=51) was 2 years and 4 months (min= 2 months, max= 10 years, Figure 4). Table 3 shows the disease conditions for Brittanys. Age at diagnosis is presented for the most common disease conditions (Figure 5).

Table 2. Distribution of gender and neuter status for 113 Brittanys with reported gender and neuter status.

Gender	Neuter status		Totals
	Intact	Neutered	
Female	39	31	70 (62%)
Male	31	12	43 (38%)
Totals	70 (62%)	43 (38%)	113 (100%)

There was no association between gender and neuter status (P=0.0817).

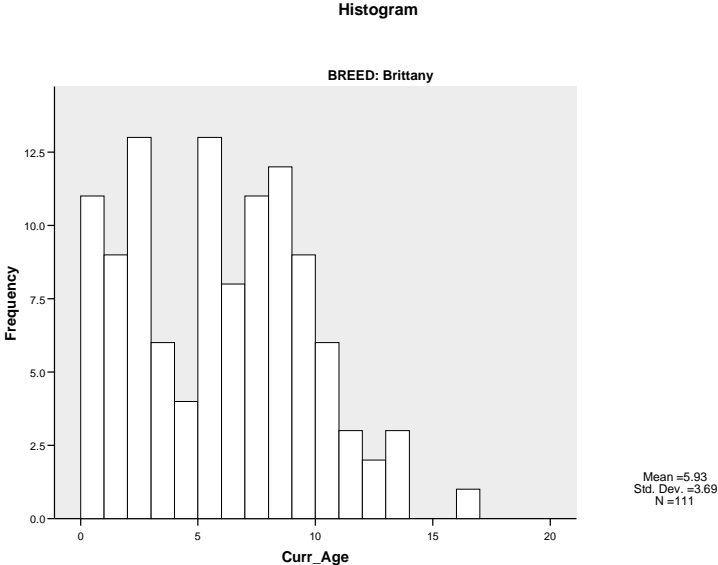


Figure 3. Histogram showing frequency of current age in years for the 111 live Brittanys with age reported.

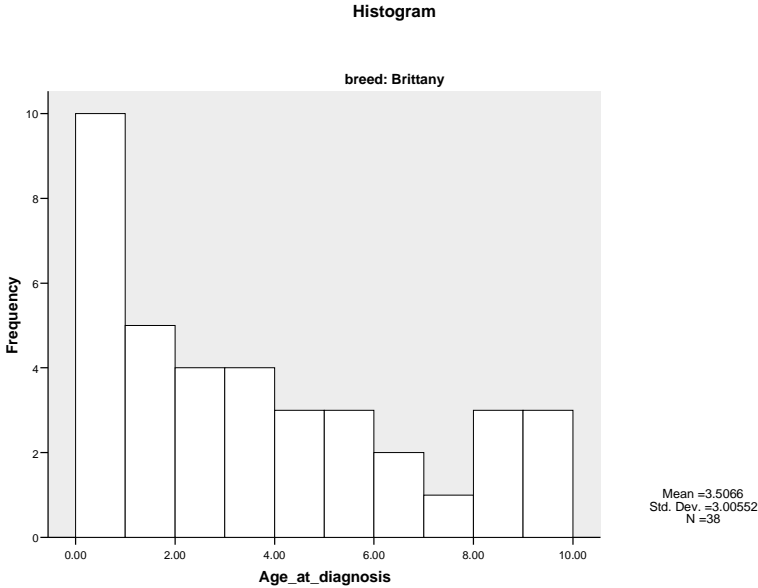


Figure 4. Histogram showing frequency of age at diagnosis for the 38 Brittanys with one or more disease conditions, using the youngest age at which a disease condition was first reported for those dogs with more than one disease condition or episode.

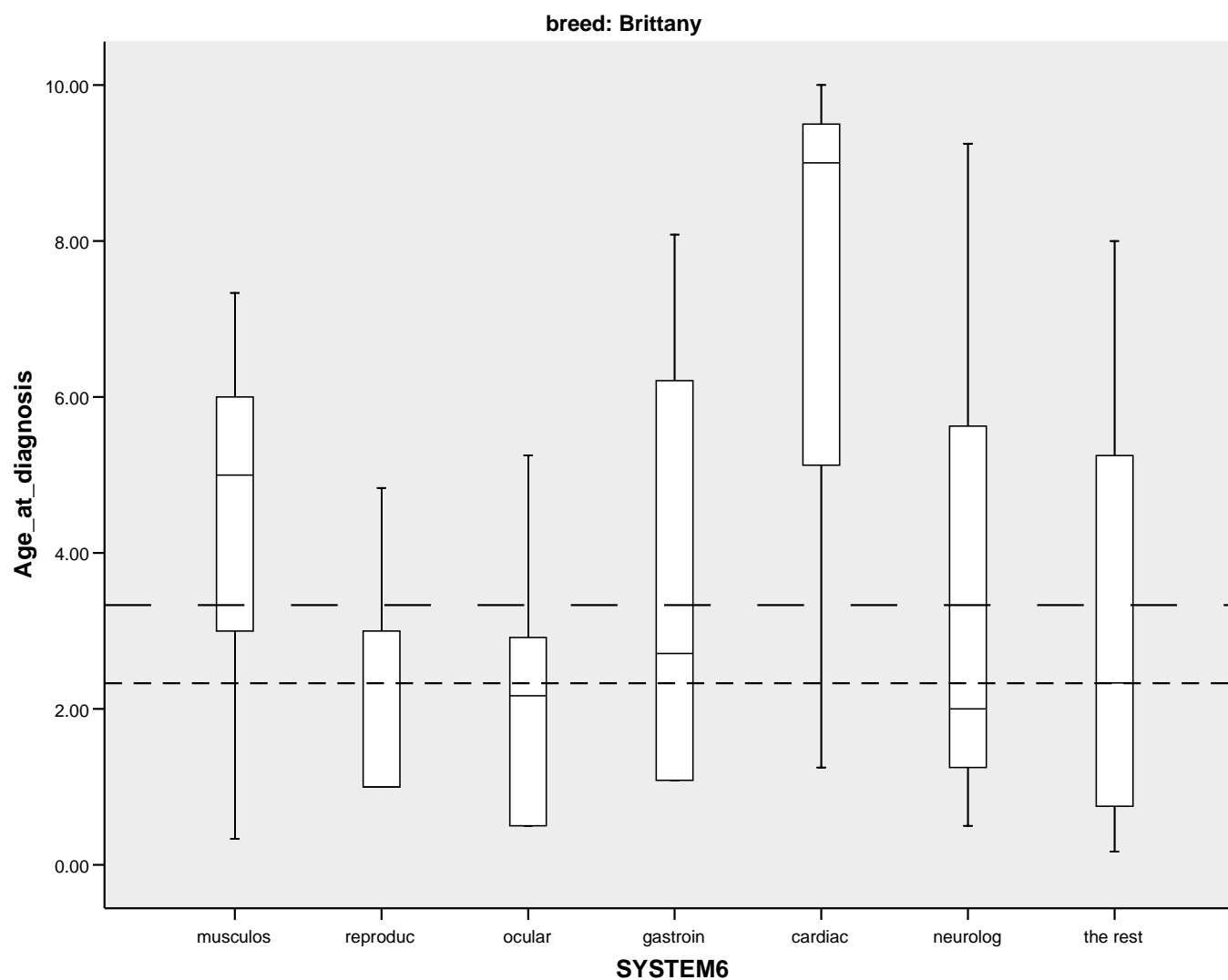


Figure 5. Box and whisker plot of age at diagnosis in years for the most common disease conditions in descending order for Brittanys (N=38 dogs with 51 conditions with age reported). The dashed line (---) is the overall median age at diagnosis for all dogs in the survey and the dotted line (----) is the overall median age at diagnosis for Brittanys. 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 Brittanys.

Disease condition	All conditions		Most common specific conditions in descending order
	N	%	
1 Musculoskeletal	9	17.6	Patellar luxation; CHD; arthritis (carpus, unspecified); CLR; ligament injury
2 Reproductive	9	17.6	False pregnancy; eclampsia; uterine inertia; mastitis; pyometra; spontaneous abortion
3 Ocular	6	11.8	Cherry eye; epiphora; blindness; keratitis (unspecified)
4 Gastrointestinal	4	7.8	Diarrhoea; foreign body obstruction; blocked salivary gland; weight loss
5 Cardiac	3	5.9	Heart murmur
6 Immune mediated	3	5.9	Gluten-sensitive enteropathy; flea allergy; unspecified
7 Neurologic	3	5.9	Seizures; meningitis
8 Dermatologic	2	3.9	Dermatitis; ear mites; recurrent pyoderma
9 Respiratory	2	3.9	Long soft palate; pneumonia
10 Trauma	2	3.9	Ocular; musculoskeletal
11 Urologic	2	3.9	Incontinence (unspecified; after spay)
12 Anal gland	1	2.0	Anal sacculitis
13 Aural	1	2.0	Otitis externa
14 Behaviour	1	2.0	Unspecified
15 Cancer	1	2.0	Type unspecified (mammary)
16 Dental	1	2.0	Retained puppy teeth
17 Unknown	1	2.0	Undiagnosed illness
Total	51	100.0	