

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

Summary results of the  
Purebred Dog Health Survey  
for Cairn Terriers

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%.

## Cairn Terriers

A total of 397 forms were sent out and 96 were returned, representing 284 live dogs. This breed had a 24.2 % response rate (96/397) and it represented 0.70% of all returns (96/13,741).

### **Mortality data**

A total of 124 deaths were reported and this represents 0.78 % of all deaths reported in the survey (124/15,881). The median age at death for Cairn Terriers was 14 years (min = 3 months, max = 18 years and 4 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 Cairn Terriers. Age at death is presented for the most common causes of death (Figure 2).

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

Cause of death	N	%	Most common specific causes in descending order
1 Old age	35	28.2	Old age
2 Cancer	24	19.4	Liver (type unspecified); stomach (type unspecified)
3 Cardiac	11	8.9	Heart failure; heart defect unspecified
4 Urologic	10	8.1	Kidney failure (chronic or unspecified)
5 Hepatic	7	5.6	Liver failure (chronic or unspecified)
6 Cerebral vascular	5	4.0	Stroke or cerebral vascular accident
7 Combinations	4	3.2	Various cardiac conditions & liver or kidney failure
8 Neurologic	4	3.2	Seizures; IVDD
9 Endocrine	3	2.4	Cushings; diabetes mellitus
10 Reproductive	3	2.4	Pyometra
11 Trauma	3	2.4	Road traffic accident
12 Unknown	3	2.4	
13 Gastrointestinal	2	1.6	Unspecified
14 Sudden death	2	1.6	
15 Collapse	1	0.8	
16 Immune mediated	1	0.8	SCID
17 Musculoskeletal	1	0.8	Arthritis
18 Other	1	0.8	Uncodeable
19 Pining	1	0.8	
20 Poisoning	1	0.8	
21 Senility	1	0.8	
22 Systemic	1	0.8	Allergy to insect bite or sting or snake bite
Total	124	100.0	

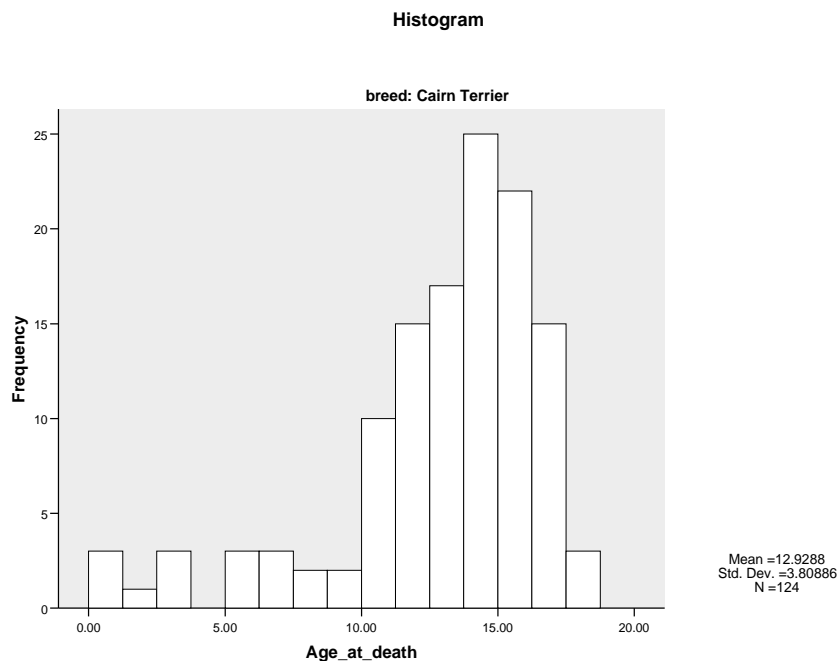


Figure 1. Histogram showing the frequency (as number of dogs) of age at death (in years) for the 124 Cairn Terrier deaths with age at death reported.

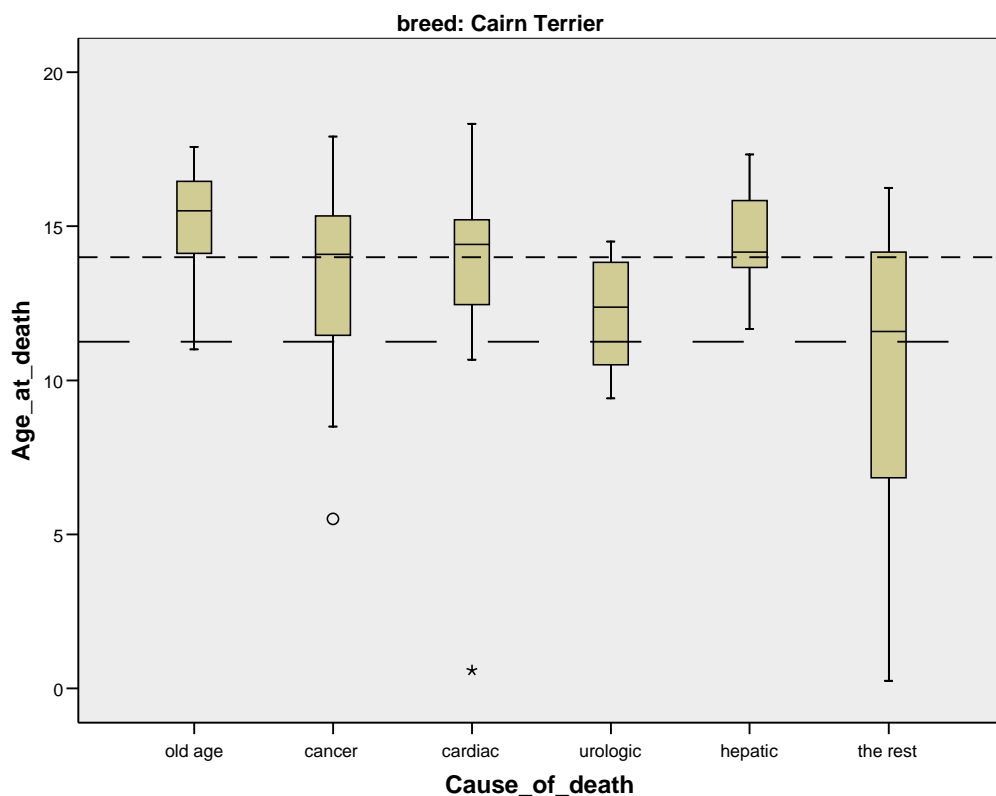


Figure 2. Box and whisker plot of age at death in years for the most common causes of death in Cairn Terriers (N=124). The dashed line (---) is the overall median age at death for all dogs in the survey and the dotted line (----) is the overall median age of death for Cairn Terriers. The solid line within each grey box represents the median age at death from the condition.

**Morbidity data**

The median current age of the 274 live dogs with a reported age was 4 years and 10 months (min=4 months, max=17 years and 6 months, Figure 3). Health information was reported for 284 live dogs of which 196 (69%) were healthy and 88 (31%) had at least one reported health condition, resulting in a total of 125 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=196) was 4 years and 2 months (min=4 months, max=16 years and 9 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=87) was 8 years (min=10 months, max=17 years and 6 months). The median age at diagnosis for all disease occurrences with a reported age at diagnosis (N=117) was 4 years and 4 months (min= 2 months, max= 16 years and 6 months, Figure 4). Table 3 shows the disease conditions for Cairn Terriers. Age at diagnosis is presented for the most common disease conditions (Figure 5).

Table 2. Distribution of gender and neuter status for 283 Cairn Terriers with reported gender and neuter status.

Gender	Neuter status		Totals
	Intact	Neutered	
Female	130	55	185 (65%)
Male	80	18	98 (35%)
Totals	210 (74%)	73 (26%)	283 (100%)

Significantly more females were neutered (P=0.0376).

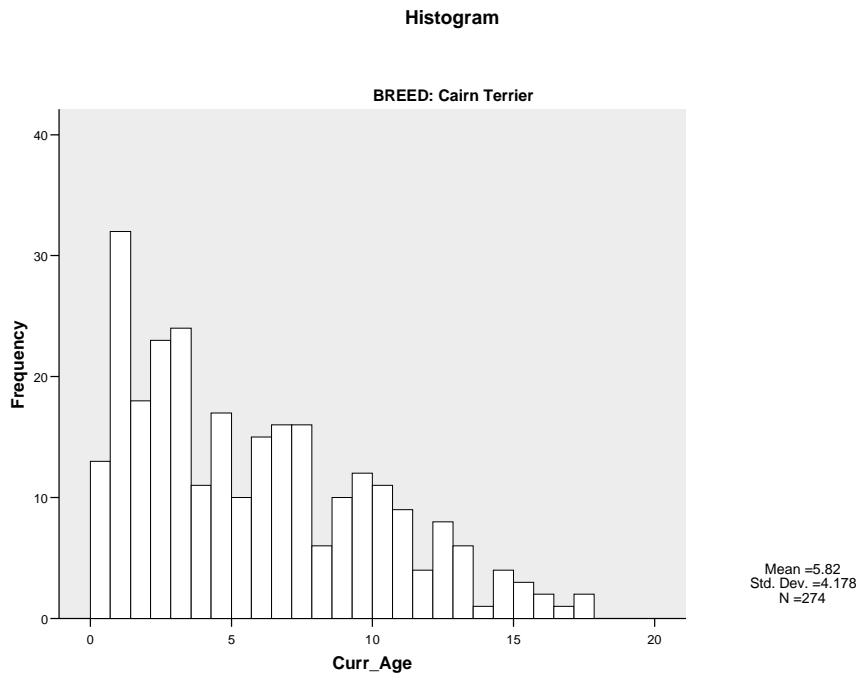


Figure 3. Histogram showing frequency of current age in years for the 274 live Cairn Terriers with age reported.

### Histogram

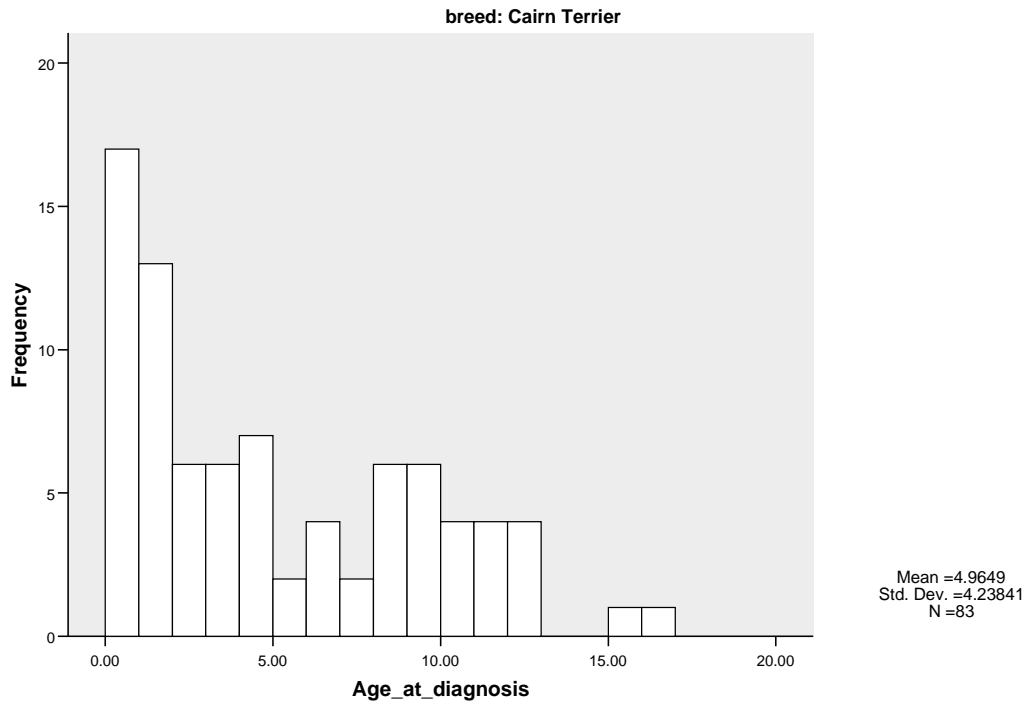


Figure 4. Histogram showing frequency of age at diagnosis for the 83 Cairn Terriers with one or more disease conditions, using the youngest age at which a disease condition was first reported for those dogs with more than one disease condition or episode.

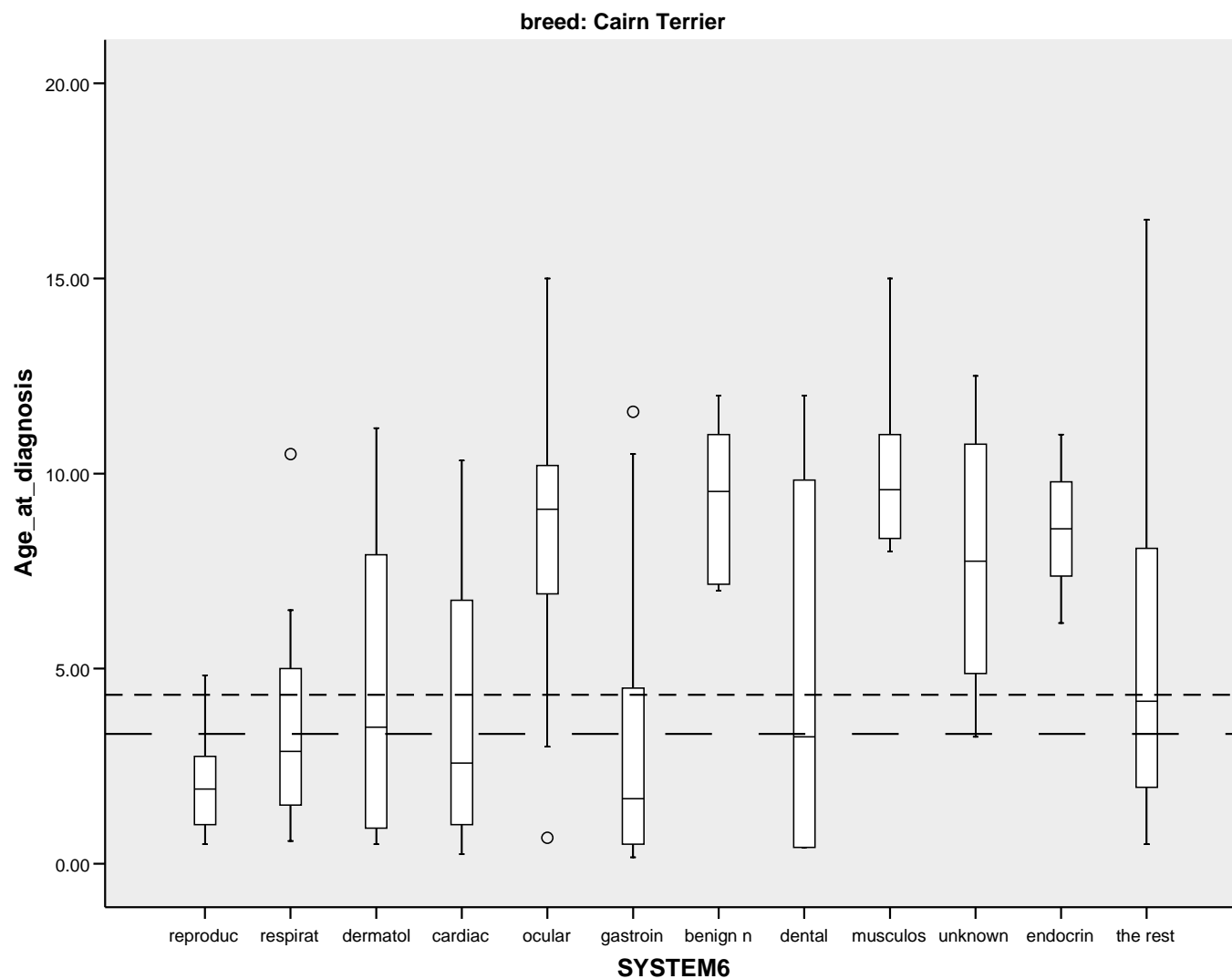


Figure 5. Box and whisker plot of age at diagnosis in years for the most common disease conditions in descending order for Cairn Terriers (N=87 dogs with 117 conditions with age reported). The dashed line (---) is the overall median age at diagnosis for all dogs in the survey and the dotted line (----) is the overall median age at diagnosis for Cairn Terriers. 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 Cairn Terriers.

Disease condition	All conditions		Most common specific conditions in descending order
	N	%	
1 Reproductive	18	14.4	Infertility; false pregnancy; cryptorchid;agalactia; eclipse; mastitis; pyometra
2 Respiratory	16	12.8	Kennel cough; noisy breathing
3 Dermatologic	13	10.4	Dermatitis; alopecia; pyotraumatic dermatitis; puppy pyoderma; ringworm; seborrhoea
4 Cardiac	12	9.6	Heart murmur (unspecified>grade 3); hypertrophic cardiomyopathy; cardiomegaly
5 Ocular	11	8.8	KCS; cataracts; blindness; epiphora; progressive retinal atrophy (PRA); red eye
6 Gastrointestinal	9	7.2	Vomiting; diarrhoea; colitis; unspecified infection
7 Benign neoplasia	6	4.8	Lipoma; unspecified (mammary)
8 Dental	6	4.8	Dental disease; retained puppy teeth
9 Immune mediated	6	4.8	Atopy; food hypersensitivity; other (unspecified)
10 Musculoskeletal	6	4.8	Arthritis; stiff joints; CLR
11 Cancer	4	3.2	Unspecified (mammary); carcinoma (stomach; teat)
12 Unknown	4	3.2	Undiagnosed illness
13 Aural	3	2.4	Otitis externa; aural haematoma
14 Endocrine	3	2.4	Addison's disease; Cushing's disease; diabetes insipidus
15 Hepatic	2	1.6	Hepatitis; PSS
16 Urologic	2	1.6	Cystitis; cystouroliths (unspecified)
17 Behaviour	1	0.8	Unspecified
18 Haematopoietic	1	0.8	Anaemia (unspecified)
19 Neurologic	1	0.8	Seizures
20 Trauma	1	0.8	Ocular
Total	125	100.0	