

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

Summary results of the  
Purebred Dog Health Survey  
for Chesapeake Bay Retrievers

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%.

## Chesapeake Bay Retrievers

A total of 277 forms were sent out and 58 were returned, representing 120 live dogs. This breed had a 20.9 % response rate (58/277) and it represented 0.42% of all returns (58/13,741).

### Mortality data

A total of 45 deaths were reported and this represents 0.28 % of all deaths reported in the survey (45/15,881). The median age at death for Chesapeake Bay Retrievers was 10 years and 9 months (min = 9 months, max = 15 years and 8 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 Chesapeake Bay Retrievers. Age at death is presented for the most common causes of death (Figure 2).

Table 1. Causes of death by organ system/category for Chesapeake Bay Retrievers.

Cause of death	N	%	Most common specific causes in descending order
1 Old age	10	22.2	Old age
2 Cancer	6	13.3	Brain tumour; bowel (type unspecified)
3 Trauma	5	11.1	Road traffic accident; unspecified
4 Cerebral vascular	4	8.9	Stroke or cerebral vascular accident
5 Behaviour	3	6.7	Aggression; unspecified
6 Endocrine	3	6.7	Diabetes mellitus
7 Neurologic	3	6.7	Seizures; spinal cord disease unspecified
8 Cardiac	2	4.4	Heart failure
9 Gastrointestinal	2	4.4	Gastric dilatation/volvulus (GDV)
10 Infection	2	4.4	Toxoplasmosis
11 Collapse	1	2.2	
12 Combinations	1	2.2	Aggression & lymphosarcoma & toxoplasmosis
13 Other	1	2.2	Uncodeable
14 Poisoning	1	2.2	
15 Urologic	1	2.2	Chronic kidney failure
Total	45	100.0	

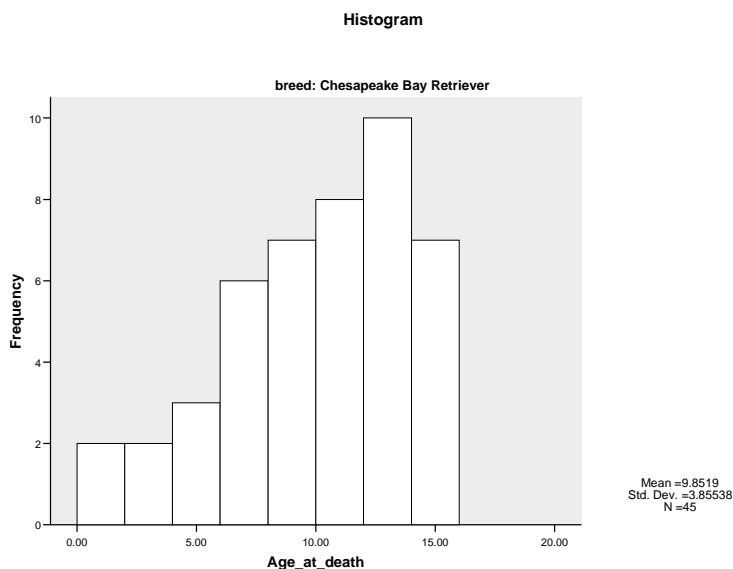


Figure 1. Histogram showing the frequency (as number of dogs) of age at death (in years) for the 45 Chesapeake Bay Retriever deaths with age at death reported.

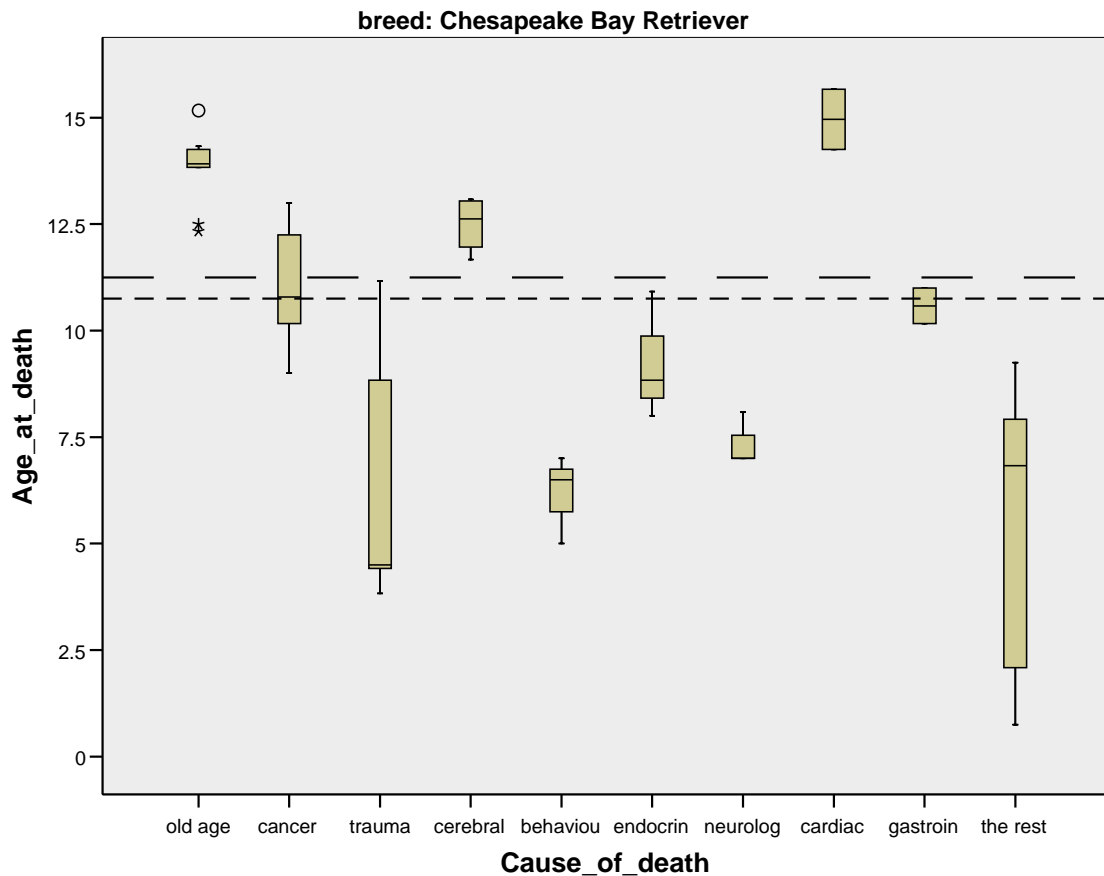


Figure 2. Box and whisker plot of age at death in years for the most common causes of death in Chesapeake Bay Retrievers (N=45). The dashed line (---) is the overall median age at death for all dogs in the survey and the dotted line (----) is the overall median age of death for Chesapeake Bay Retrievers. The solid line within each grey box represents the median age at death from the condition.

**Morbidity data**

The median current age of the 120 live dogs with a reported age was 3 years and 8 months (min=2 months, max=11 years and 11 months, Figure 3). Health information was reported for 120 live dogs of which 79 (66%) were healthy and 41 (34%) had at least one reported health condition, resulting in a total of 72 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=79) was 3 years (min=2 months, max=11 years and 11 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=40) was 6 years and 2 months (min=7 months, max=11 years). The median age at diagnosis for all disease occurrences with a reported age at diagnosis (N=67) was 3 years and 6 months (min= 2 months, max= 11 years, Figure 4). Table 3 shows the disease conditions for Chesapeake Bay Retrievers. Age at diagnosis is presented for the most common disease conditions (Figure 5).

Table 2. Distribution of gender and neuter status for 120 Chesapeake Bay Retrievers with reported gender and neuter status.

Gender	Neuter status		Totals
	Intact	Neutered	
Female	51	22	73 (61%)
Male	34	13	47 (39%)
Totals	85 (71%)	35 (29%)	120 (100%)

There was no association between gender and neuter status (P=0.7707).

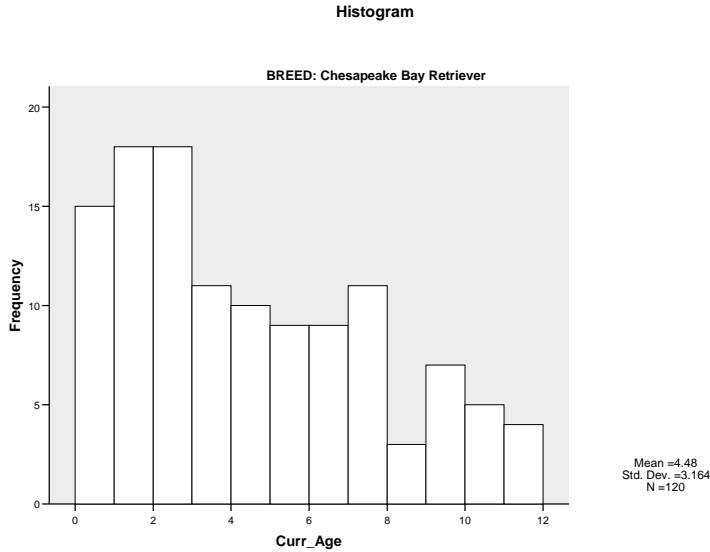


Figure 3. Histogram showing frequency of current age in years for the 120 live Chesapeake Bay Retrievers with age reported.

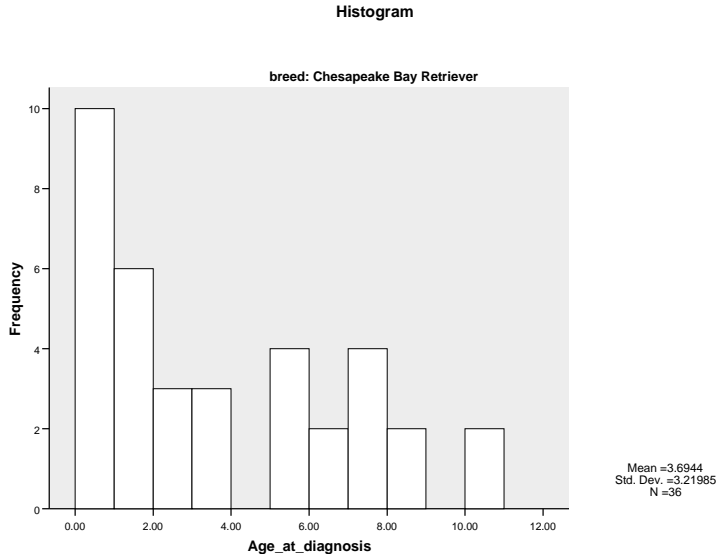


Figure 4. Histogram showing frequency of age at diagnosis for the 36 Chesapeake Bay Retrievers with one or more disease conditions, using the youngest age at which a disease condition was first reported for those dogs with more than one disease condition or episode.

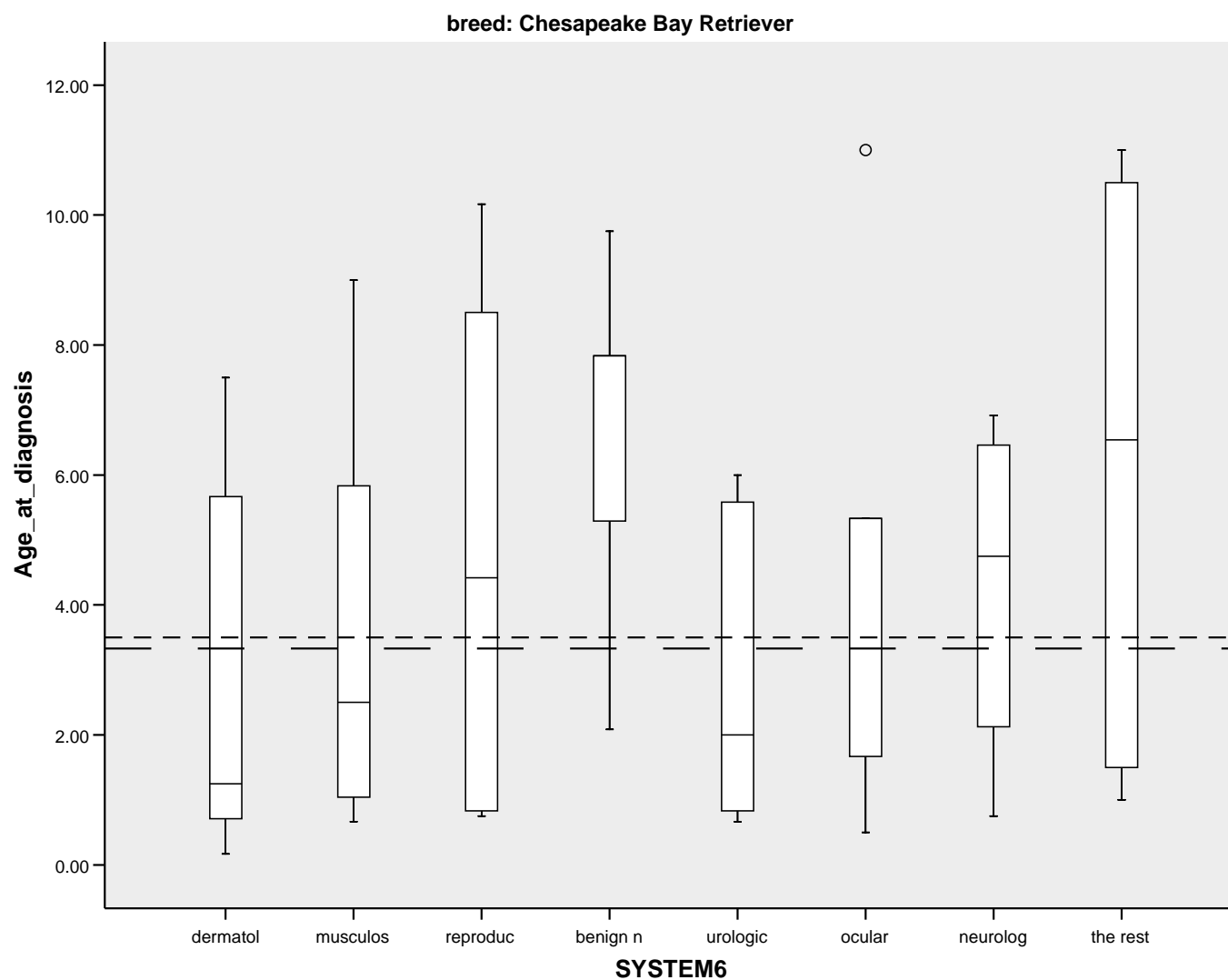


Figure 5. Box and whisker plot of age at diagnosis in years for the most common disease conditions in descending order for Chesapeake Bay Retrievers (N=40 dogs with 67 conditions with age reported). The dashed line (---) is the overall median age at diagnosis for all dogs in the survey and the dotted line (----) is the overall median age at diagnosis for Chesapeake Bay Retrievers. 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 Chesapeake Bay Retrievers.

Disease condition	All conditions		Most common specific conditions in descending order
	N	%	
1 Dermatologic	16	22.2	Dermatitis; pyotraumatic dermatitis; calcinosis circumscripta; mites (cheyletiella)
2 Musculoskeletal	16	22.2	Arthritis (hindlimbs); CLR; CHD
3 Reproductive	8	11.1	Pyometra; infertility; irregular heat cycles; mastitis; prolapsed uterus
4 Benign neoplasia	7	9.7	Lipoma; unspecified; histiocytoma
5 Urologic	7	9.7	Cystitis; incontinence; acute kidney failure
6 Ocular	5	6.9	Cataracts; distichiasis; generalized PRA (night blindness); epiphora
7 Neurologic	4	5.6	Seizures; IVDD (cervical)
8 Aural	3	4.2	Otitis externa; excessive ear wax
9 Respiratory	2	2.8	Kennel cough
10 Trauma	2	2.8	Forelimb
11 Endocrine	1	1.4	Hypothyroidism
12 Gastrointestinal	1	1.4	Colitis
Total	72	100.0	