

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

Summary results of the
Purebred Dog Health Survey
for English Cocker Spaniels

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%.

English Cocker Spaniels

A total of 1000 forms were sent out and 206 were returned, representing 814 live dogs. This breed had a 20.6% response rate (206/1000) and it represented 1.50% of all returns (206/13,741).

Mortality data

A total of 289 deaths were reported and this represents 1.82% of all deaths reported in the survey (289/15,881). The median age at death for English Cocker Spaniels was 11 years and 2 months (min = 5 months, max = 17 years and 3 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 English Cocker Spaniels. Age at death is presented for the most common causes of death (Figure 2).

Table 1. Causes of death by organ system/category for English Cocker Spaniels.

Cause of death	N	%	Most common specific causes in descending order
1 Cancer	85	29.4	Mammary (type unspecified) unspecified; carcinoma
2 Old age	50	17.3	Old age
3 Cardiac	27	9.3	Heart failure; heart attack; defect unspecified; cardiomegaly
4 Combinations	19	6.6	
5 Urologic	15	5.2	Kidney failure; incontinence; familial nephropathy
6 Reproductive	10	3.5	Pyometra; prostatic disease; gangrenous mastitis
7 Unknown	10	3.5	
8 Neurologic	9	3.1	Seizures; spinal disease unspecified; IVDD
9 Cerebral vascular	7	2.4	Stroke or cerebral vascular accident
10 Immune mediated	7	2.4	AIHA; unspecified; thrombocytopaenia
11 Other	7	2.4	Smoke inhalation from fire
12 Endocrine	6	2.1	Cushings; Addisons; diabetes mellitus
13 Hepatic	6	2.1	Chronic liver failure; liver disease
14 Behaviour	5	1.7	Aggression; unspecified
15 Internal bleeding	5	1.7	
16 Respiratory	4	1.4	Unspecified; bronchitis; choked
17 Trauma	4	1.4	Attacked by dog; road traffic accident; spinal injury; unspecified
18 Gastrointestinal	3	1.0	Colitis; pancreatitis; unspecified
19 Perioperative	3	1.0	
20 Collapse	2	0.7	
21 Musculoskeletal	2	0.7	Arthritis
22 Died	1	0.3	
23 Hyperthermia	1	0.3	
24 Infection	1	0.3	Pseudomonas
Total	289	100.0	

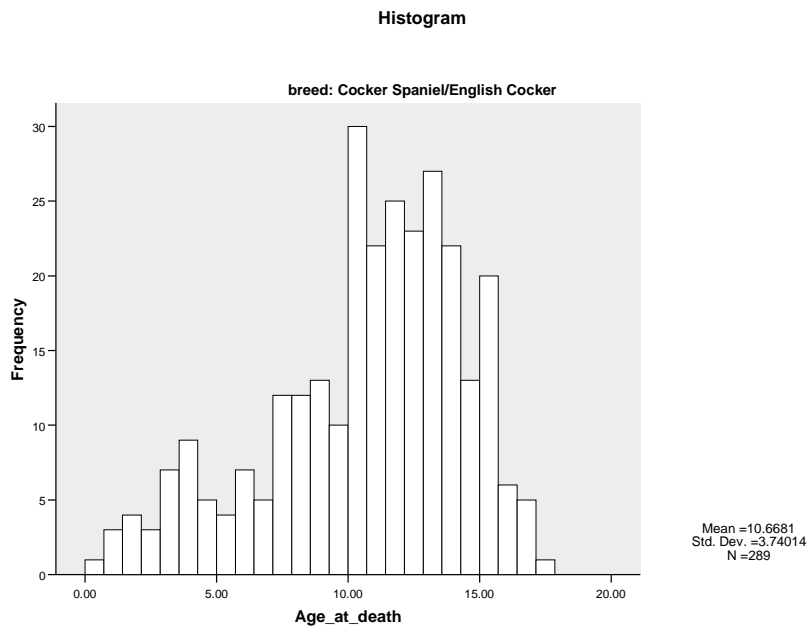


Figure 1. Histogram showing the frequency (as number of dogs) of age at death (in years) for the 289 English Cocker Spaniel deaths with age at death reported.

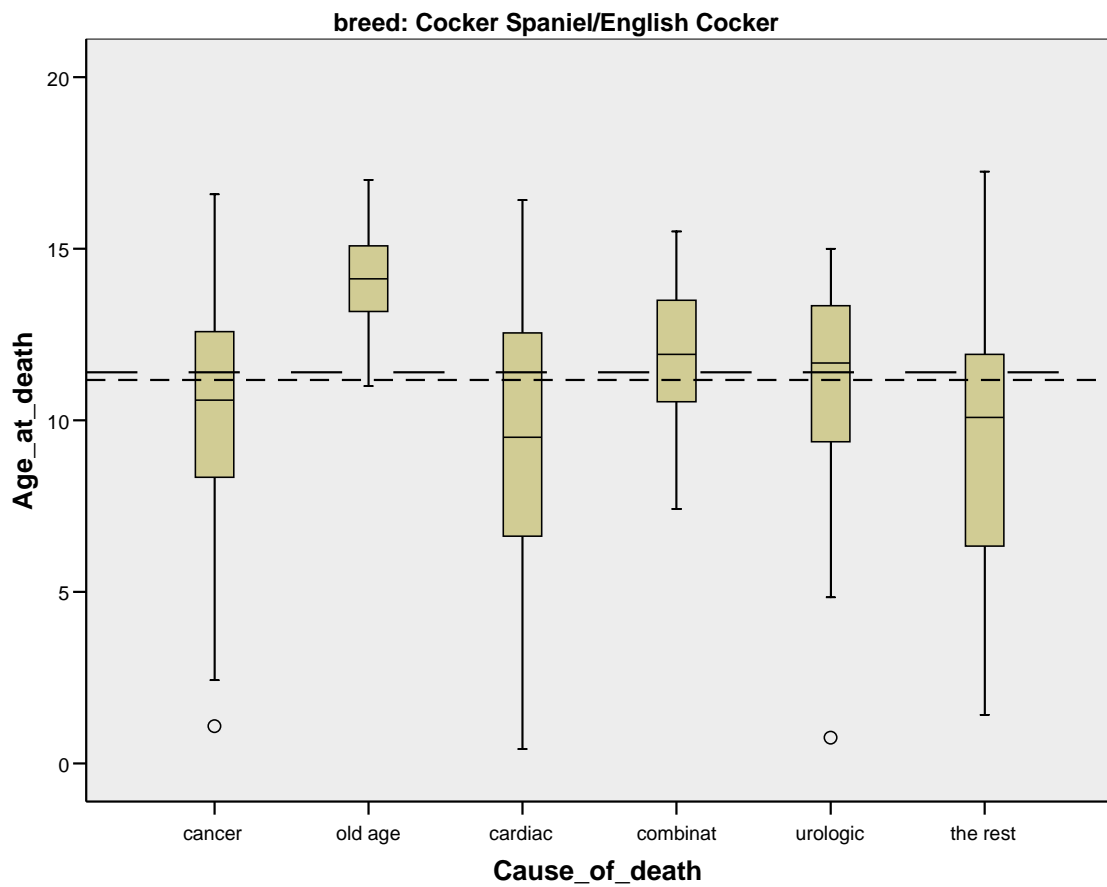


Figure 2. Box and whisker plot of age at death in years for the most common causes of death in English Cocker Spaniels (N=289). The dashed line (---) is the overall median age at death for all dogs in the survey and the dotted line (----) is the overall median age of death for English Cocker Spaniels. The solid line within each grey box represents the median age at death from the condition.

Morbidity data

The median current age of the 814 live dogs with a reported age was 4 years (min=1 month, max=15 years and 6 months, Figure 3). Health information was reported for 814 live dogs of which 580 (71%) were healthy and 234 (29%) had at least one reported health condition, resulting in a total of 390 reported conditions with a median of 1 condition/dog (min=1, max=10).

The median current age of all healthy dogs with a reported age (N=580) was 3 years and 2 months (min=1 month, max=14 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=234) was 7 years and 1 month (min=2 months, max=15 years and 6 months). The median age at diagnosis for all disease occurrences with a reported age at diagnosis (N=372) was 4 years (min= 1 month, max= 15 years and 1 month, Figure 4). Table 3 shows the disease conditions for English Cocker Spaniels. Age at diagnosis is presented for the most common disease conditions (Figure 5).

Table 2. Distribution of gender and neuter status for 792 English Cocker Spaniels with reported gender and neuter status.

Gender	Neuter status		Totals
	Intact	Neutered	
Female	444	107	551 (70%)
Male	206	35	241 (30%)
Totals	650 (82%)	142 (18%)	792 (100%)

There was no association between gender and neuter status (P=0.0984).

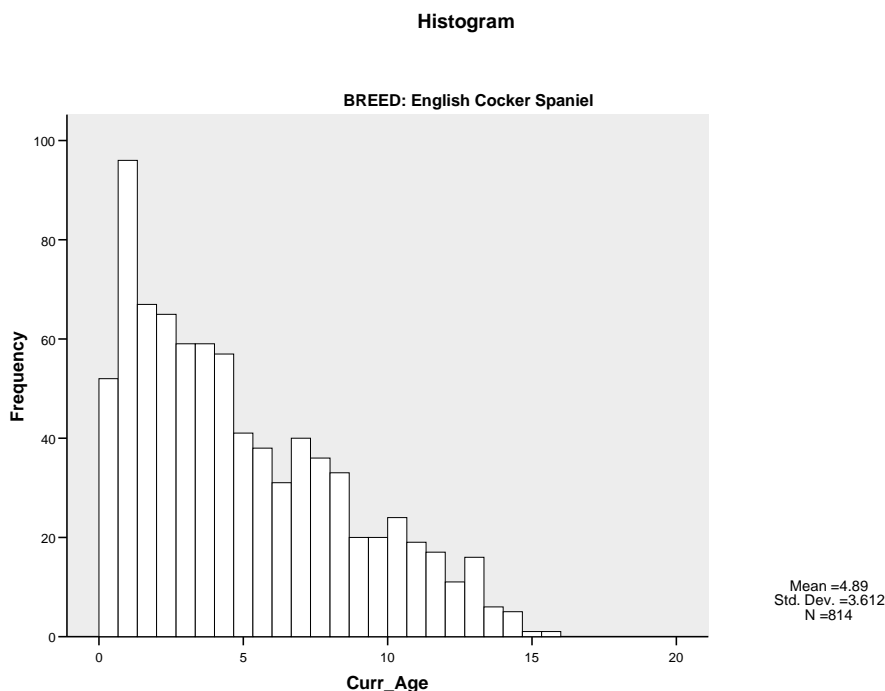


Figure 3. Histogram showing frequency of current age in years for the 814 live English Cocker Spaniels with age reported.

Histogram

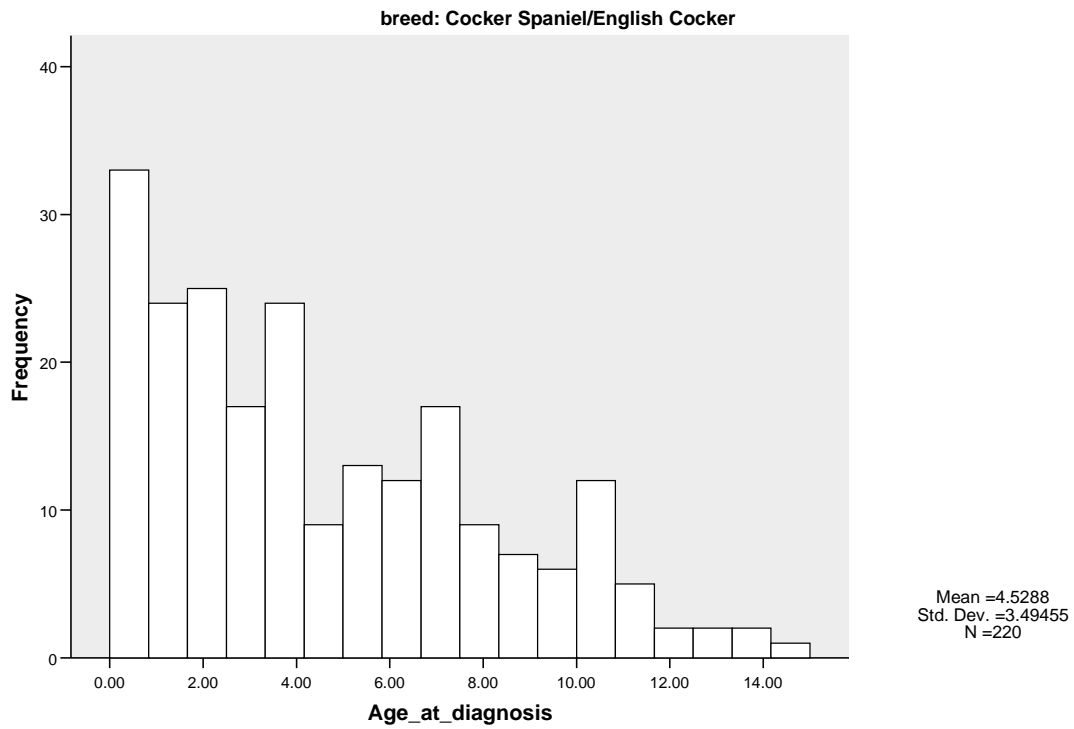


Figure 4. Histogram showing frequency of age at diagnosis for the 220 English Cocker Spaniels with one or more disease conditions, using the youngest age at which a disease condition was first reported for those dogs with more than one disease condition or episode.

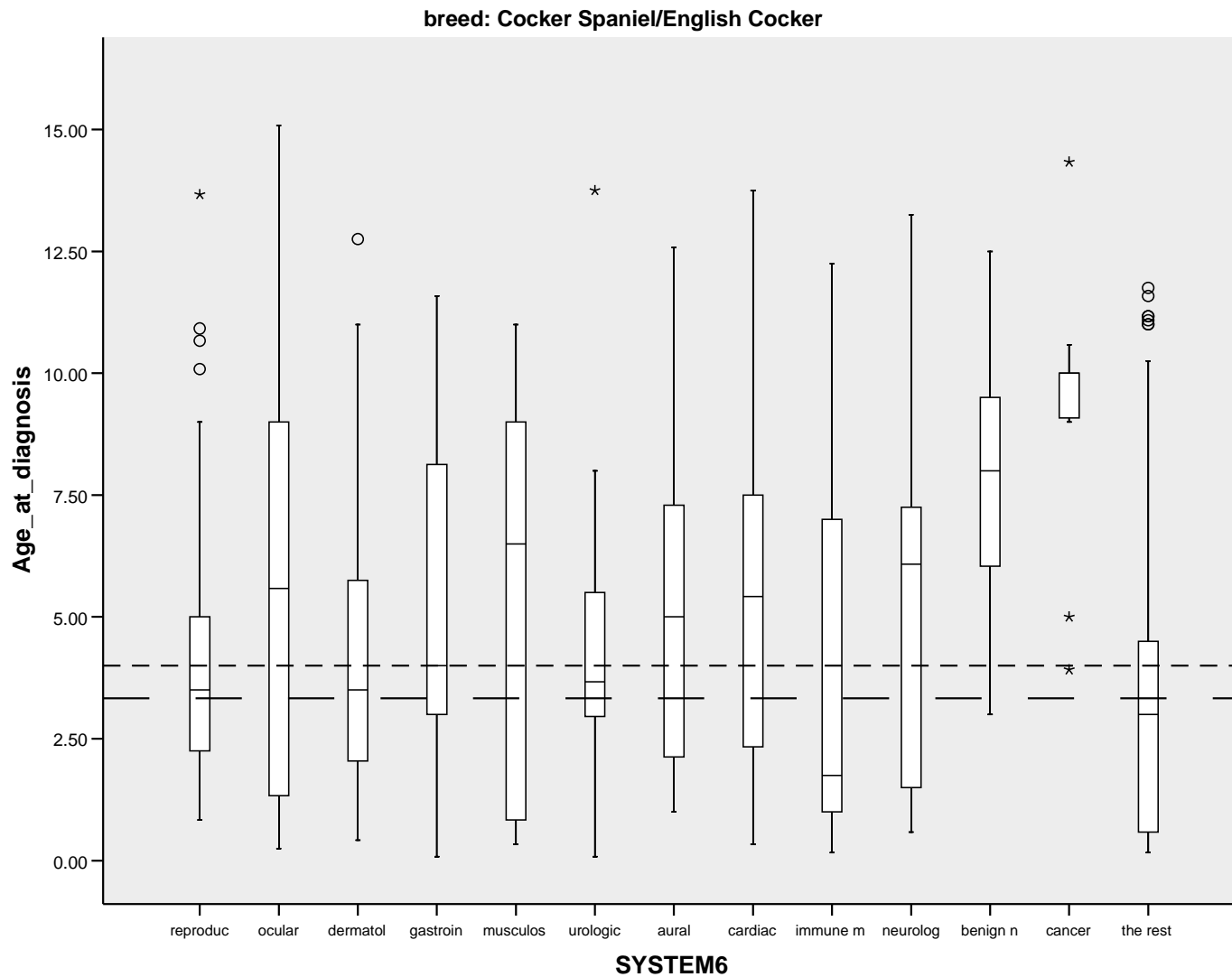


Figure 5. Box and whisker plot of age at diagnosis in years for the most common disease conditions in descending order for English Cocker Spaniels (N=234 dogs with 372 conditions with age reported). The dashed line (---) is the overall median age at diagnosis for all dogs in the survey and the dotted line (----) is the overall median age at diagnosis for English Cocker Spaniels. 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 English Cocker Spaniels.

Disease condition	All conditions		Most common specific conditions in descending order
	N	%	
1 Reproductive	81	20.8	Pyometra; dystochia (uterine inertia>physical blockage); infertility; false pregnancy
2 Ocular	62	15.9	KCS; cataracts; conjunctivitis; distichiasis; blocked tear duct; entropion
3 Dermatologic	34	8.7	Mites (sarcoptes>unspecified>demodex); dermatitis; alopecia
4 Gastrointestinal	28	7.2	Pancreatitis; diarrhoea; colitis; foreign body obstruction; gastroenteritis (chronic, unspecified)
5 Musculoskeletal	23	5.9	Arthritis (hindlimb>shoulders>forelimb=hip); CHD; spondylitis; jaw deformities
6 Urologic	20	5.1	Cystouroliths (struvite>calcium oxalate); cystitis; incontinence (unspecified>after spay)
7 Aural	19	4.9	Otitis externa; ear mites; excessive ear wax
8 Respiratory	18	4.6	Kennel cough; noisy breathing; bronchitis; long soft palate; rhinitis
9 Cardiac	16	4.1	Heart murmur (grade1, unspecified); cardiomegaly; dilated cardiomyopathy
10 Immune mediated	15	3.8	Flea allergy; gluten-sensitive enteropathy; atopy; AIHA; thrombocytopaenia; MMM
11 Neurologic	14	3.6	Seizures; deafness; IVDD
12 Benign neoplasia	11	2.8	Lipoma; histiocytoma; unspecified
13 Cancer	11	2.8	Unspecified (skin>mammary=testicle); carcinoma (toe); brain tumour
14 Trauma	9	2.3	Liver; skin; cornea; forelimb; hindlimb; spinal cord; spine
15 Unknown	8	2.1	Undiagnosed illness
16 Endocrine	6	1.5	Diabetes mellitus; hypothyroidism; diabetes insipidus; hyperthyroidism
17 Other	5	1.3	Uncodeable
18 Dental	4	1.0	Dental disease; retained puppy teeth
19 Hepatic	4	1.0	Portosystemic shunt (PSS); hepatitis
20 Cerebrovascular	2	0.5	Stroke or cerebral vascular accident
Total	390	100.0	