

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

Summary results of the
Purebred Dog Health Survey
for Dachshunds

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%.

Dachshunds

A total of 810 forms were sent out and 155 were returned, representing 509 live dogs. This breed had a 19.1% response rate (155/810) and it represented 1.13% of all returns (155/13,741).

Mortality data

A total of 245 deaths were reported and this represents 1.54% of all deaths reported in the survey (245/15,881). The median age at death for Dachshunds was 12 years and 8 months (min = 4 months, max = 19 years) and this was higher than the overall median of 11 years and 3 months (Figure 1). Table 1 shows the causes of death for Dachshunds. Age at death is presented for the most common causes of death (Figure 2).

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

Cause of death	N	%	Most common specific causes in descending order
1 Old age	53	21.6	Old age
2 Cancer	41	16.7	Unspecified; mammary; lung (both type unspecified)
3 Cardiac	35	14.3	Heart failure; disease unspecified; heart failure
4 Neurologic	27	11.0	IVDD; seizures; unspecified spinal disease
5 Combinations	14	5.7	
6 Urologic	12	4.9	Kidney failure (chronic>acute); incontinence
7 Endocrine	10	4.1	Diabetes mellitus; Cushings
8 Cerebral vascular	8	3.3	Stroke or cerebral vascular accident
9 Gastrointestinal	8	3.3	GDV; foreign body; gastroenteritis; HGE
10 Perioperative	6	2.4	
11 Other	5	2.0	Uncodeable
12 Respiratory	5	2.0	Pneumonia; unspecified
13 Trauma	4	1.6	Road traffic accident; unspecified
14 Unknown	4	1.6	
15 Senility	3	1.2	
16 Hepatic	2	0.8	Liver failure
17 Ocular	2	0.8	Blindness
18 Behaviour	1	0.4	Aggression
19 Died	1	0.4	Natural causes
20 Immune mediated	1	0.4	Unspecified
21 Internal bleeding	1	0.4	
22 Musculoskeletal	1	0.4	Arthritis
23 Sudden death	1	0.4	
Total	245	100.0	

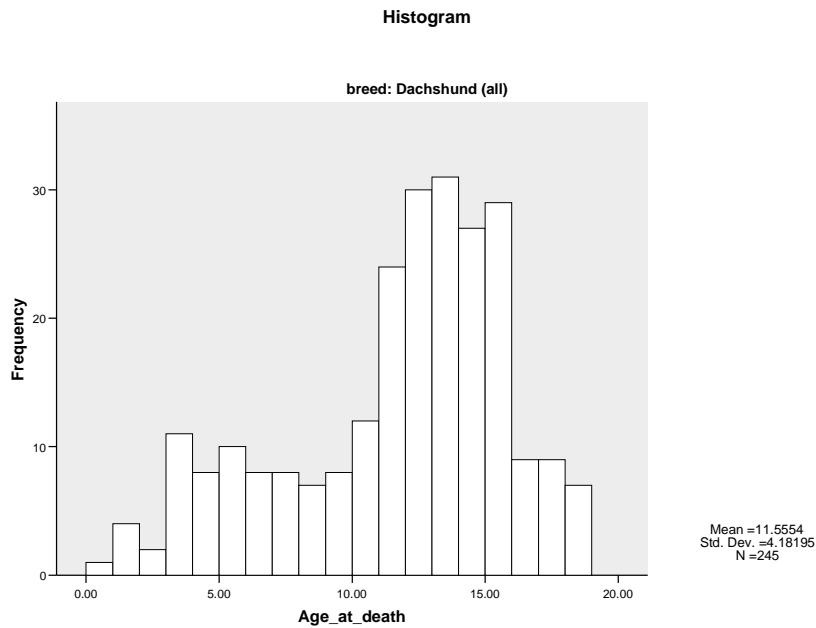


Figure 1. Histogram showing the frequency (as number of dogs) of age at death (in years) for the 245 Dachshund deaths with age at death reported.

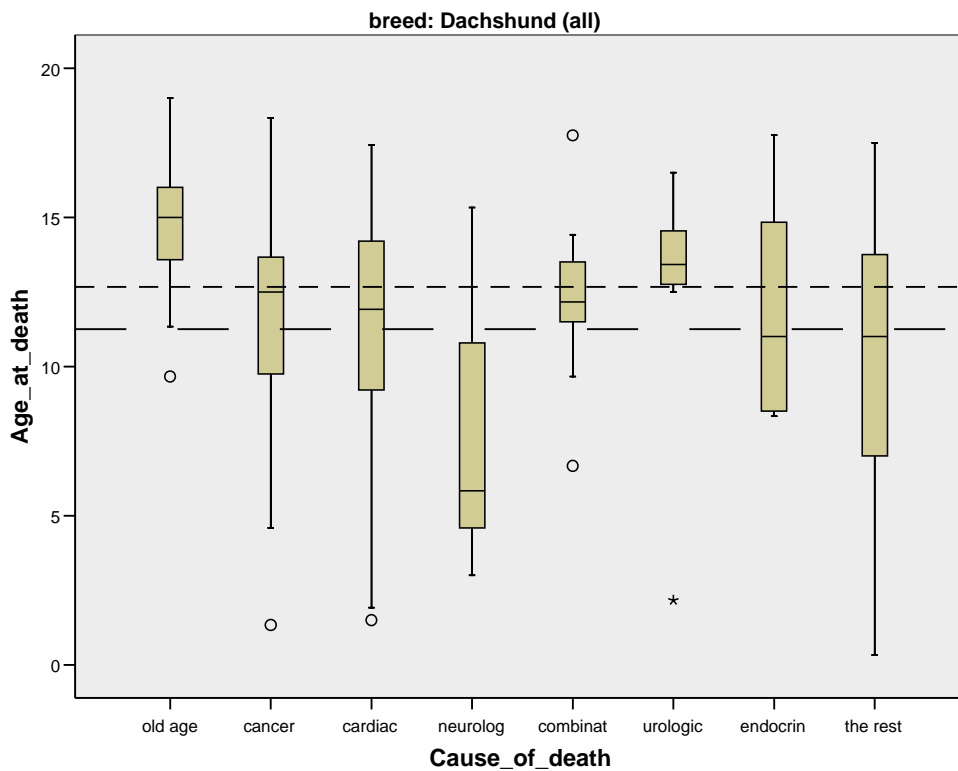


Figure 2. Box and whisker plot of age at death in years for the most common causes of death in Dachshunds (N=245). The dashed line (---) is the overall median age at death for all dogs in the survey and the dotted line (----) is the overall median age of death for Dachshunds. The solid line within each grey box represents the median age at death from the condition.

Morbidity data

The median current age of the 508 live dogs with a reported age was 4 years and 12 months (min=1 month, max=16 years and 11 months, Figure 3). Health information was reported for 509 live dogs of which 322 (63%) were healthy and 187 (37%) had at least one reported health condition, resulting in a total of 294 reported conditions with a median of 1 condition/dog (min=1, max=7).

The median current age of all healthy dogs with a reported age (N=322) was 3 years and 7 months (min=1 month, 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=187) was 7 years and 4 months (min=8 months, max=16 years and 11 months). The median age at diagnosis for all disease occurrences with a reported age at diagnosis (N=281) was 4 years (min= 3 months, max= 16 years, Figure 4). Table 3 shows the disease conditions for Dachshunds. Age at diagnosis is presented for the most common disease conditions (Figure 5).

Table 2. Distribution of gender and neuter status for 504 Dachshunds with reported gender and neuter status.

Gender	Neuter status		Totals
	Intact	Neutered	
Female	251	95	346 (69%)
Male	124	34	158 (31%)
Totals	375 (74%)	129 (26%)	504 (100%)

There was no association between gender and neuter status (P=0.1565).

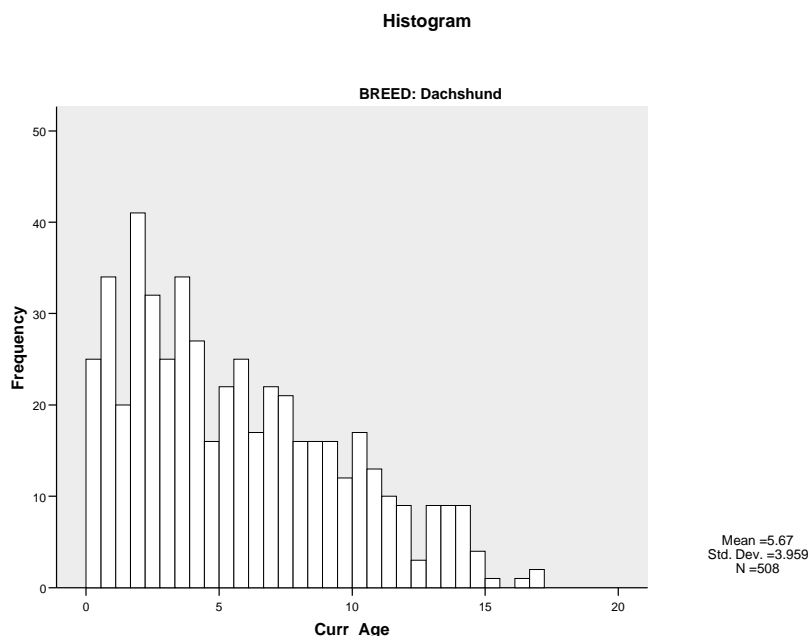


Figure 3. Histogram showing frequency of current age in years for the 508 live Dachshunds with age reported.

Histogram

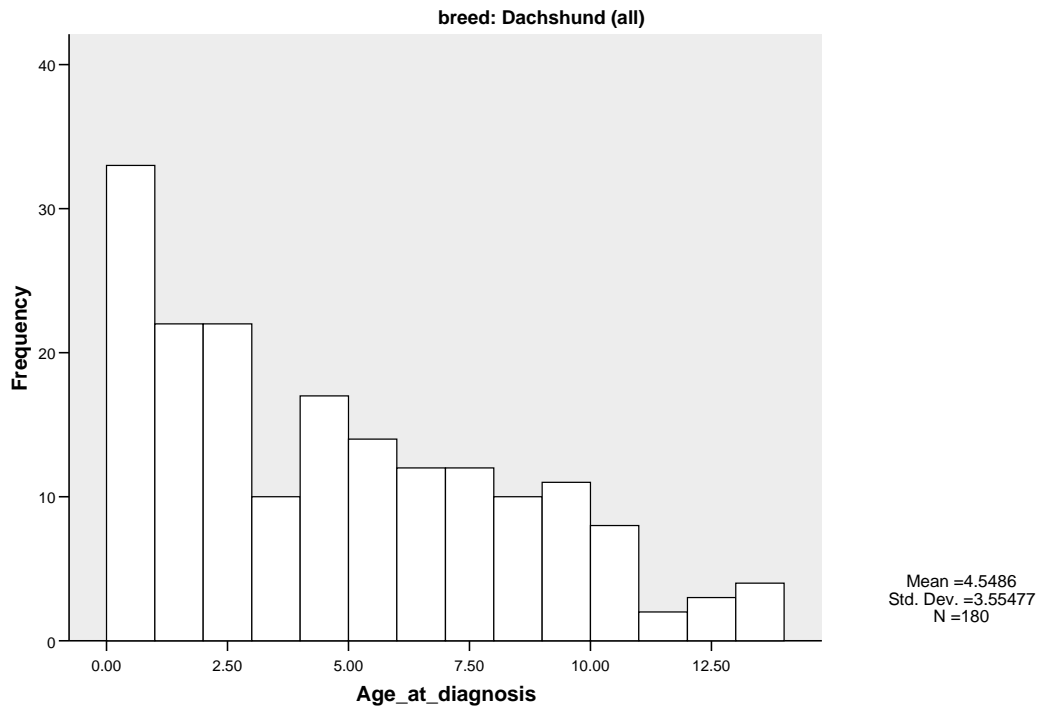


Figure 4. Histogram showing frequency of age at diagnosis for the 180 Dachshunds with one or more disease conditions, using the youngest age at which a disease condition was first reported for those dogs with more than one disease condition or episode.

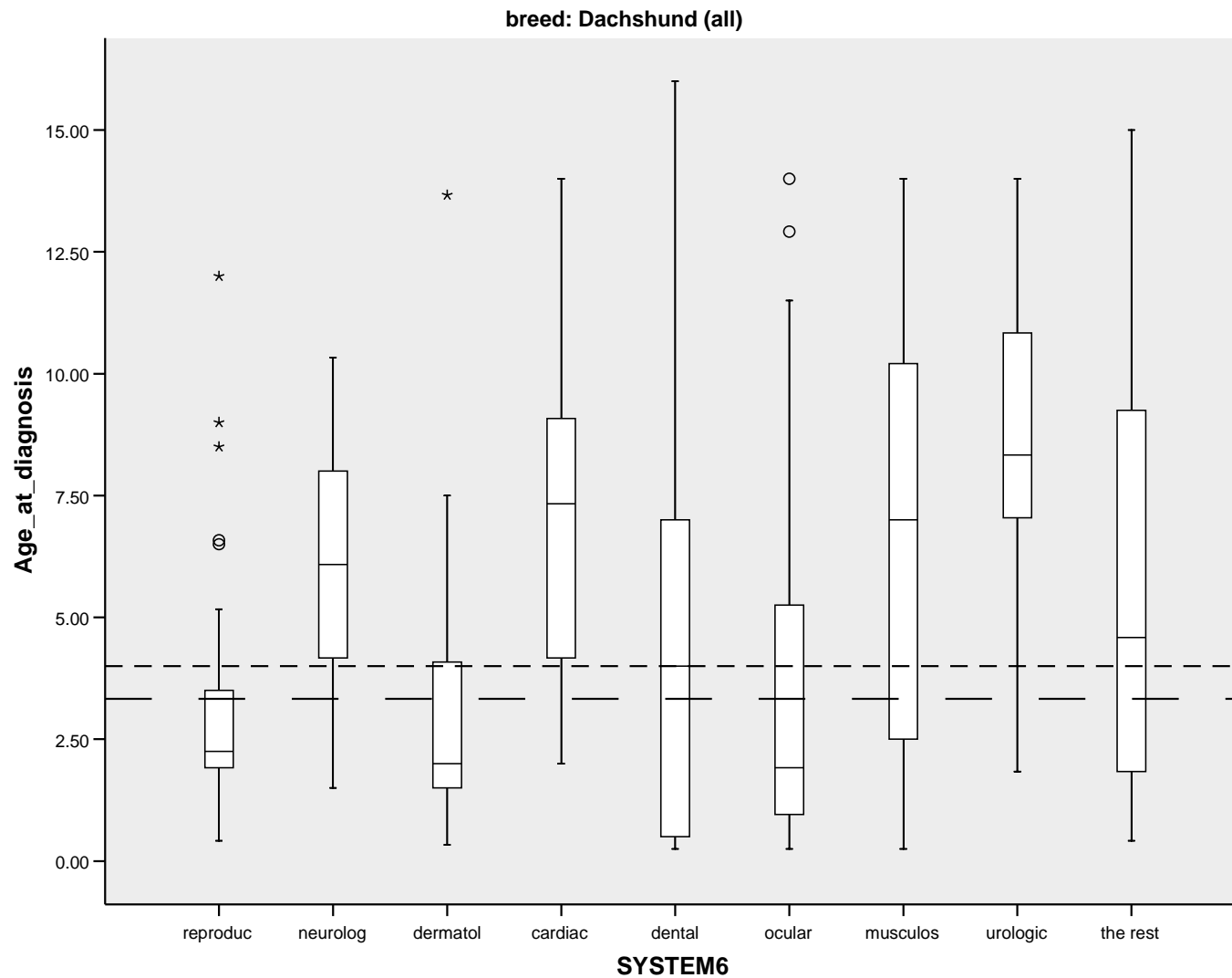


Figure 5. Box and whisker plot of age at diagnosis in years for the most common disease conditions in descending order for Dachshunds (N=187 dogs with 281 conditions with age reported). The dashed line (---) is the overall median age at diagnosis for all dogs in the survey and the dotted line (----) is the overall median age at diagnosis for Dachshunds. 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 Dachshunds.

Disease condition	All conditions		Most common specific conditions in descending order
	N	%	
1 Reproductive	58	19.7	Dystochia (uterine inertia>physical blockage); false pregnancy; eclampsia; infertility
2 Neurologic	35	11.9	IVDD (unspecified>lumbar>thoracic); seizures; glycoproteinosis; deafness
3 Dermatologic	31	10.5	Alopecia; dermatitis; loss of nose pigment; recurrent pyoderma
4 Cardiac	26	8.8	Heart murmur (unspecified>grade 2>other); coughing; MVD; heart rhythm disorder
5 Dental	26	8.8	Dental disease; retained puppy teeth
6 Ocular	24	8.2	Distichiasis; blocked tear duct; cataracts; blindness; epiphora
7 Musculoskeletal	20	6.8	Arthritis; lameness (hindlimb); patellar luxation; stiff joints; compressed vertebrae
8 Respiratory	15	5.1	Kennel cough; upper respiratory tract infection; bronchitis; noisy breathing
9 Urologic	11	3.7	Cystitis; cystouroliths (unspecified); haematuria; incontinence (unspecified)
10 Gastrointestinal	10	3.4	Colitis; diarrhoea; IBD; vomiting; weight loss
11 Endocrine	9	3.1	Diabetes mellitus; Cushing's disease; hypothyroidism; diabetes insipidus
12 Unknown	8	2.7	Undiagnosed illness
13 Immune mediated	6	2.0	Gluten-sensitive enteropathy; flea allergy; atopy
14 Benign neoplasia	4	1.4	Lipoma; histiocytoma
15 Cancer	4	1.4	Unspecified (skin>mammary)
16 Behaviour	2	0.7	Aggression
17 Hepatic	2	0.7	Hepatitis; chronic liver disease
18 Aural	1	0.3	Otitis externa
19 Trauma	1	0.3	Unspecified
20 Other	1	0.3	Uncodeable
Total	294	100.0	