

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

Summary results of the
Purebred Dog Health Survey
for Deerhounds

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%.

Deerhounds

A total of 570 forms were sent out and 238 were returned, representing 442 live dogs. This breed had a 41.8% response rate (238/570) and it represented 1.73% of all returns (238/13,741).

Mortality data

A total of 287 deaths were reported and this represents 1.81% of all deaths reported in the survey (287/15,881). The median age at death for Deerhounds was 8 years and 8 months (min = 2 months, max = 16 years and 9 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 Deerhounds. Age at death is presented for the most common causes of death (Figure 2).

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

Cause of death	N	%	Most common specific causes in descending order
1 Cardiac	70	24.4	Heart failure; cardiomyopathy (unspecified > dilated)
2 Cancer	54	18.8	Bone (type unspecified); brain tumour; osteosarcoma
3 Old age	35	12.2	Old age & old age combinations
4 Gastrointestinal	25	8.7	GDV; colitis; bowel disease unspecified
5 Combinations	15	5.2	Cardiomyopathy; colitis; cancer; pyometra; paresis
6 Other	15	5.2	Uncodeable
7 Perioperative	9	3.1	
8 Cerebral vascular	7	2.4	Stroke or cerebral vascular accident
9 Trauma	7	2.4	Road traffic accident; unspecified
10 Unknown	7	2.4	
11 Hepatic	6	2.1	Chronic liver failure; liver disease unspecified
12 Urologic	6	2.1	Chronic kidney failure; cystitis; incontinence
13 Reproductive	5	1.7	Pyometra; aneurysm post whelping
14 Musculoskeletal	4	1.4	Arthritis; osteomyelitis
15 Neurologic	4	1.4	CDRM; fits; spinal paralysis; spinal disease unspecified
16 Portosystemic shunt (PSS)	3	1.0	
17 Infection	3	1.0	Distemper; leptospirosis; unspecified
18 Poisoning	3	1.0	
19 Septicaemia	2	0.7	
20 Cardiovascular	1	0.3	Portal vein thrombosis
21 Dermatologic	1	0.3	Skin disease unspecified
22 Hyperthermia	1	0.3	
23 Immune mediated	1	0.3	Rheumatoid arthritis
24 Senility	1	0.3	
25 Sudden death	1	0.3	
26 Systemic	1	0.3	Allergy to insect bite or sting or snake bite
Total	287	100.0	

CDRM= chronic degenerative radiculomyelopathy

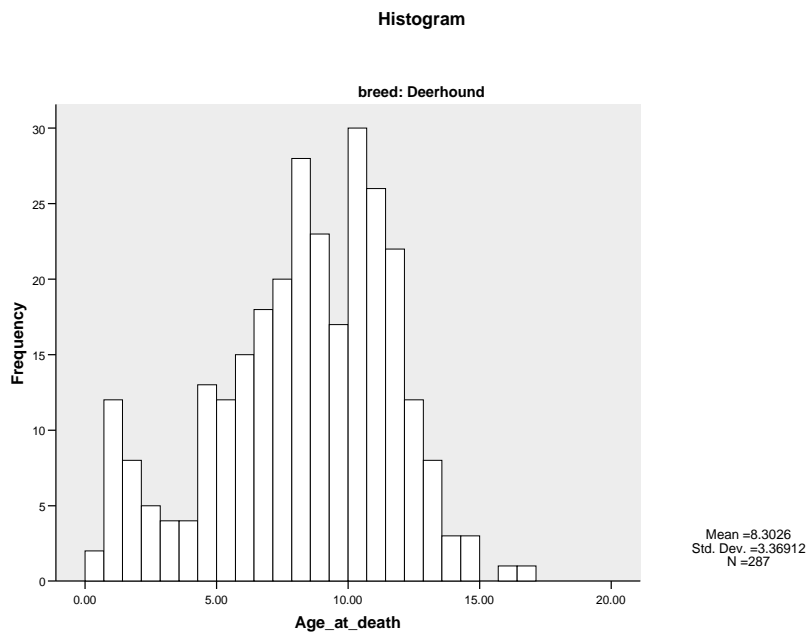


Figure 1. Histogram showing the frequency (as number of dogs) of age at death (in years) for the 287 Deerhound deaths with age at death reported.

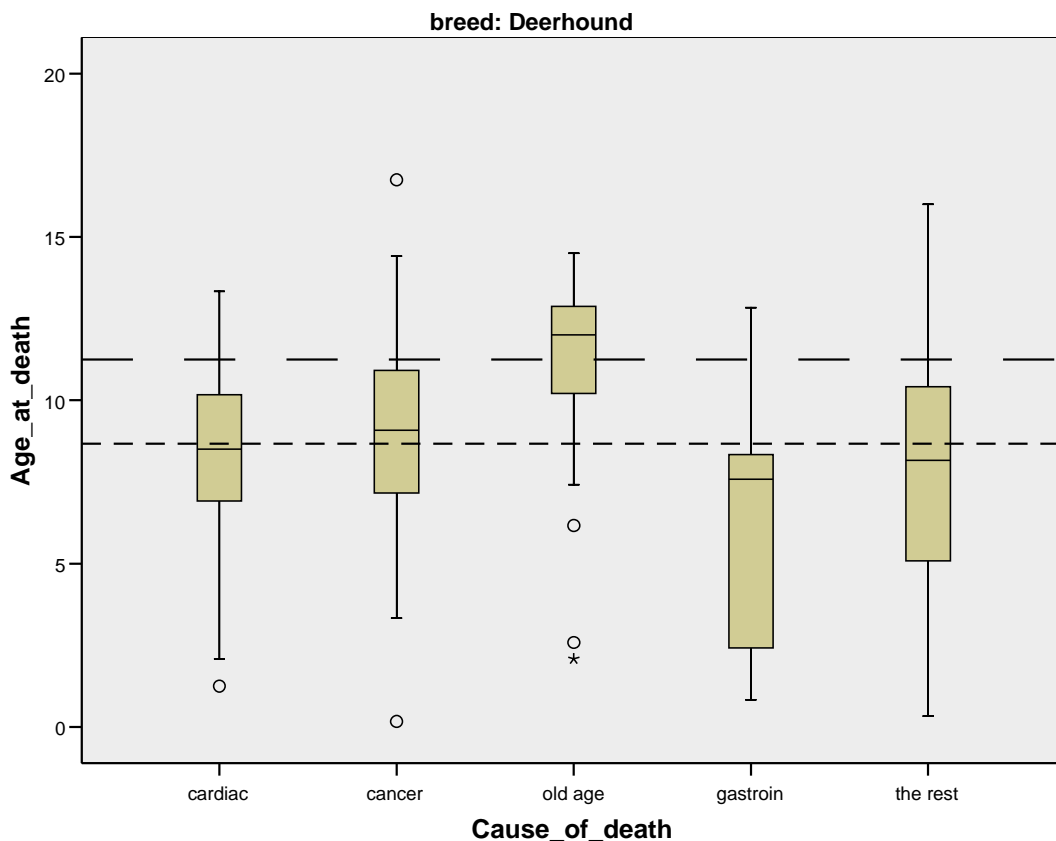


Figure 2. Box and whisker plot of age at death in years for the most common causes of death in Deerhounds (N=287). The dashed line (---) is the overall median age at death for all dogs in the survey and the dotted line (----) is the overall median age of death for Deerhounds. The solid line within each grey box represents the median age at death from the condition.

Morbidity data

The median current age of the 441 live dogs with a reported age was 4 years and 2 months (min=2 months, max=11 years and 9 months, Figure 3). Health information was reported for 442 live dogs of which 300 (68%) were healthy and 142 (32%) had at least one reported health condition, resulting in a total of 229 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=300) was 3 years and 5 months (min=3 months, max=10 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=142) was 5 years and 8 months (min=2 months, max=11 years and 9 months). The median age at diagnosis for all disease occurrences with a reported age at diagnosis (N=215) was 3 years and 6 months (min= 3 months, max= 10 years and 9 months, Figure 4). Table 3 shows the disease conditions for Deerhounds. Age at diagnosis is presented for the most common disease conditions (Figure 5).

Table 2. Distribution of gender and neuter status for 440 Deerhounds with reported gender and neuter status.

Gender	Neuter status		Totals
	Intact	Neutered	
Female	210	65	275 (63%)
Male	136	29	165 (38%)
Totals	346 (79%)	94 (21%)	440 (100%)

There was no association between gender and neuter status (P=0.1332).

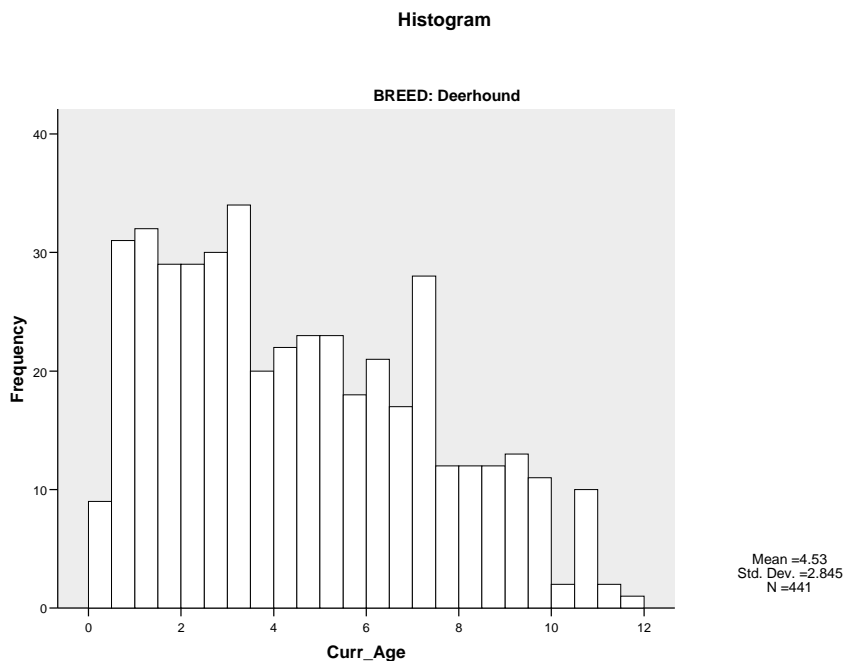


Figure 3. Histogram showing frequency of current age in years for the 441 live Deerhounds with age reported.

Histogram

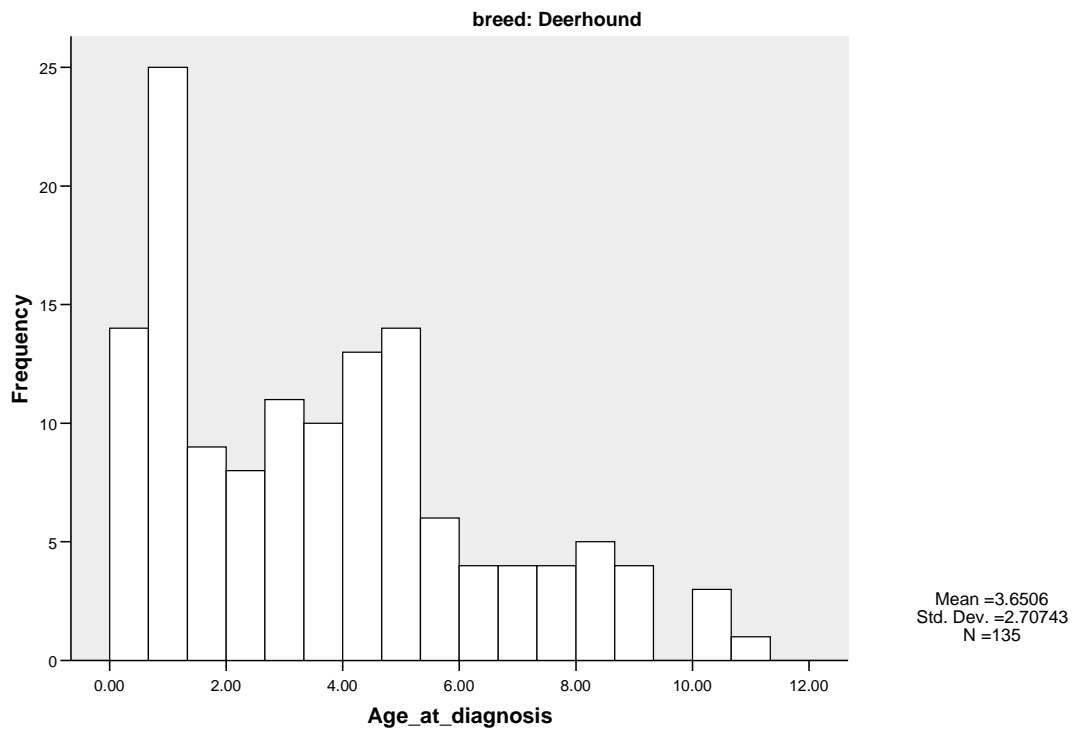


Figure 4. Histogram showing frequency of age at diagnosis for the 135 Deerhounds with one or more disease conditions, using the youngest age at which a disease condition was first reported for those dogs with more than one disease condition or episode.

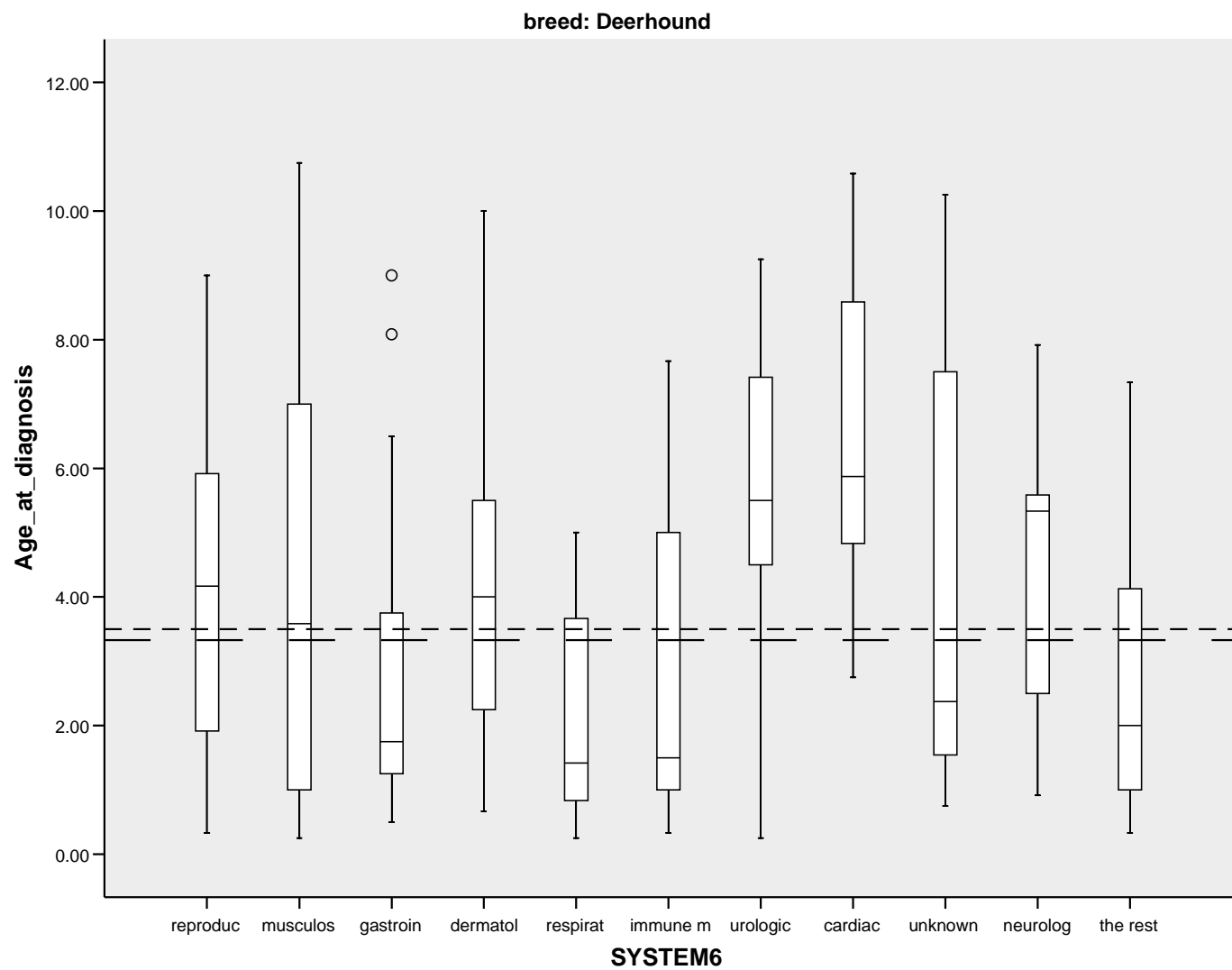


Figure 5. Box and whisker plot of age at diagnosis in years for the most common disease conditions in descending order for Deerhounds (N=142 dogs with 215 conditions with age reported). The dashed line (---) is the overall median age at diagnosis for all dogs in the survey and the dotted line (----) is the overall median age at diagnosis for Deerhounds. 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 Deerhounds.

Disease condition	All conditions		Most common specific conditions in descending order
	N	%	
1 Reproductive	40	17.5	Pyometra; vaginitis; dystochia (uterine inertia>physical blockage); irregular heat cycles
2 Musculoskeletal	34	14.8	Arthritis (hips>rest); OCD (shoulder; hock); CLR; stiff joints
3 Gastrointestinal	30	13.1	GDV; diarrhoea; vomiting; inappetance
4 Dermatologic	23	10.0	Dermatitis; interdigital cysts; sebaceous cysts
5 Respiratory	13	5.7	Kennel cough; constricted nostrils; coughing; pneumonia
6 Immune mediated	12	5.2	Flea allergy; atopy; gluten-sensitive enteropathy; MMM; food allergy; vaccine reaction
7 Ocular	12	5.2	Conjunctivitis; red eye; eyelid abnormality (unspecified); KCS; entropion
8 Urologic	11	4.8	Cystitis; cystouroliths (unspecified=cystine); incontinence (unspecified=after spay)
9 Cardiac	10	4.4	Cardiomyopathy (dilated=unspecified); heart murmur (unspecified); heart rhythm disorder
10 Unknown	10	4.4	Undiagnosed illness
11 Neurologic	9	3.9	Seizures; IVDD (cervical, unspecified); meningitis; granulomatous meningoencephalitis (GME)
12 Uncode and other	6	2.6	Anorexia; splenic torsion; poisoning other than food; enlarged spleen
13 Benign neoplasia	4	1.7	Lipoma; histiocytoma
14 Cancer	4	1.7	Unspecified; haemangiosarcoma (claw); lymphoma; osteosarcoma (hindlimb)
15 Dental	4	1.7	Retained puppy teeth; dental disease
16 Anal gland	2	0.9	Anal sacculitis
17 Aural	1	0.4	Excessive ear wax
18 Behaviour	1	0.4	Unspecified
19 Endocrine	1	0.4	Hypothyroidism
20 Hepatic	1	0.4	Portosystemic shunt (PSS)
21 Trauma	1	0.4	Neurologic
Total	229	100.0	