

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

Summary results of the  
Purebred Dog Health Survey  
for English Toy 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%.

## English Toy Terriers

A total of 152 forms were sent out and 28 were returned, representing 92 live dogs. This breed had an 18.4% response rate (28/152) and it represented 0.20% of all returns (28/13,741).

### Mortality data

A total of 19 deaths were reported and this represents 0.12% of all deaths reported in the survey (19/15,881). The median age at death for English Toy Terriers was 12 years (min = 1 year and 5 months, max = 15 years and 11 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 English Toy 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 English Toy Terriers.

Cause of death	N	%	Most common specific causes in descending order
1 Old age	6	31.6	Old age
2 Cancer	3	15.8	Unspecified; liver (type unspecified)
3 Cardiac	2	10.5	Cardiomyopathy unspecified; defect unspecified
4 Endocrine	2	10.5	Cushings disease; hypocalcemic tetany
5 Behaviour	1	5.3	Aggression
6 Gastrointestinal	1	5.3	Pancreatitis
7 Poisoning	1	5.3	
8 Reproductive	1	5.3	Pyometra
9 Trauma	1	5.3	Road traffic accident
10 Urologic	1	5.3	Chronic kidney failure
Total	19	100.0	

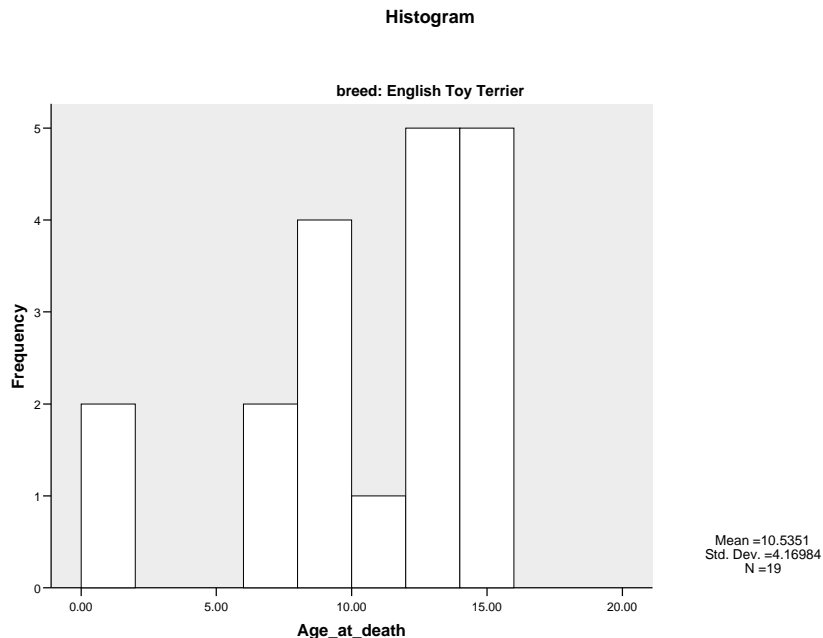


Figure 1. Histogram showing the frequency (as number of dogs) of age at death (in years) for the 19 English Toy Terrier deaths with age at death reported.

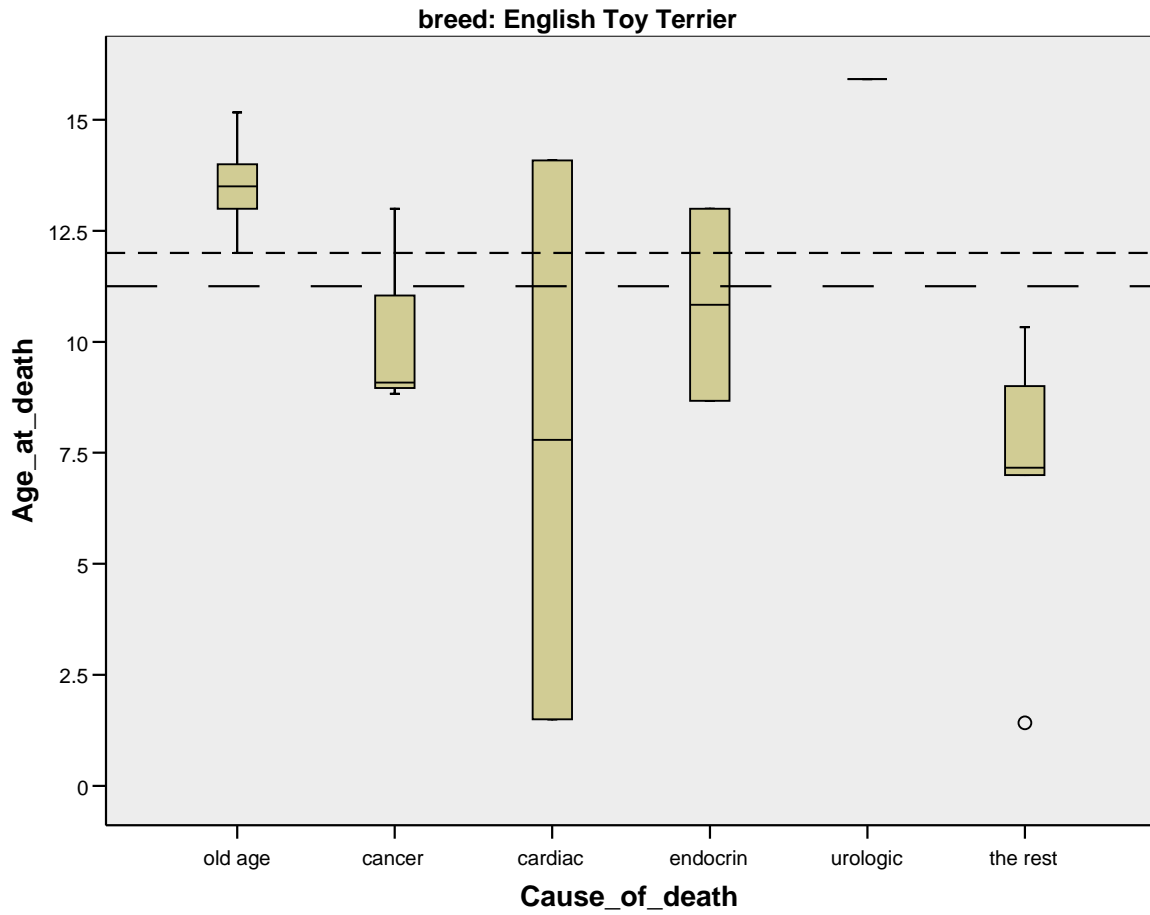


Figure 2. Box and whisker plot of age at death in years for the most common causes of death in English Toy Terriers (N=19). The dashed line (---) is the overall median age at death for all dogs in the survey and the dotted line (----) is the overall median age of death for English Toy Terriers. The solid line within each grey box represents the median age at death from the condition.

### Morbidity data

The median current age of the 92 live dogs with a reported age was 4 years and 9 months (min=3 months, max=14 years, Figure 3). Health information was reported for 92 live dogs of which 67 (73%) were healthy and 25 (27%) had at least one reported health condition, resulting in a total of 40 reported conditions with a median of 1 condition/dog (min=1, max=4).

The median current age of all healthy dogs with a reported age (N=67) was 4 years and 2 months (min=3 months, max=14 years). 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=25) was 7 years and 8 months (min=1 year and 3 months, max=13 years and 4 months). The median age at diagnosis for all disease occurrences with a reported age at diagnosis (N=40) was 4 years and 3 months (min= 3 months, max= 12 years, Figure 4). Table 3 shows the disease conditions for English Toy Terriers. Age at diagnosis is presented for the most common disease conditions (Figure 5).

Table 2. Distribution of gender and neuter status for 92 English Toy Terriers with reported gender and neuter status.

Gender	Neuter status		Totals
	Intact	Neutered	
Female	39	17	56 (61%)
Male	26	10	36 (39%)
Totals	65 (71%)	27 (29%)	92 (100%)

There was no association between gender and neuter status ( $P=0.7909$ ).

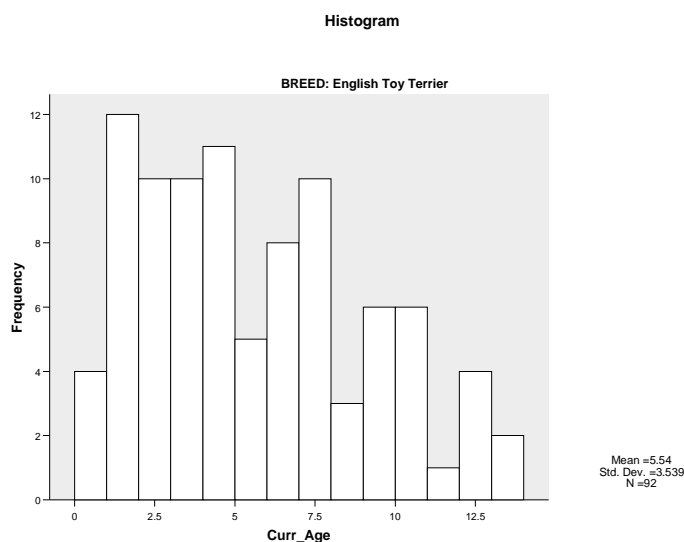


Figure 3. Histogram showing frequency of current age in years for the 92 live English Toy Terriers with age reported.

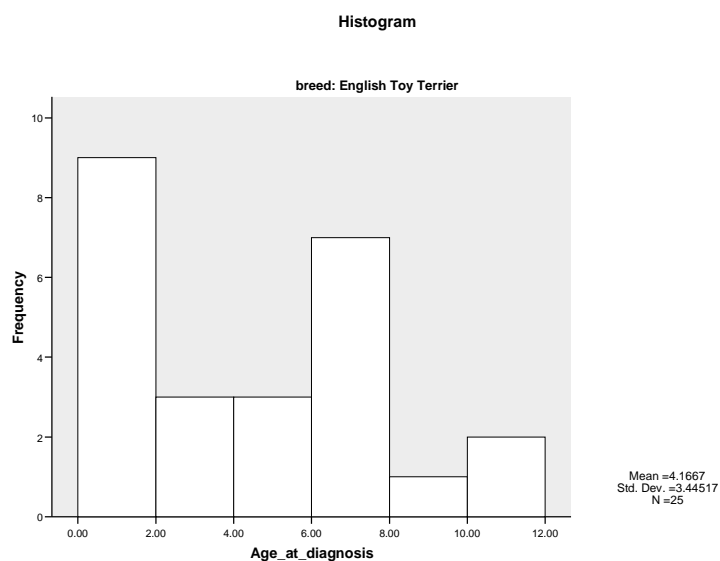


Figure 4. Histogram showing frequency of age at diagnosis for the 25 English Toy Terriers with one or more disease conditions, using the youngest age at which a disease condition was first reported for those dogs with more than one disease condition or episode.

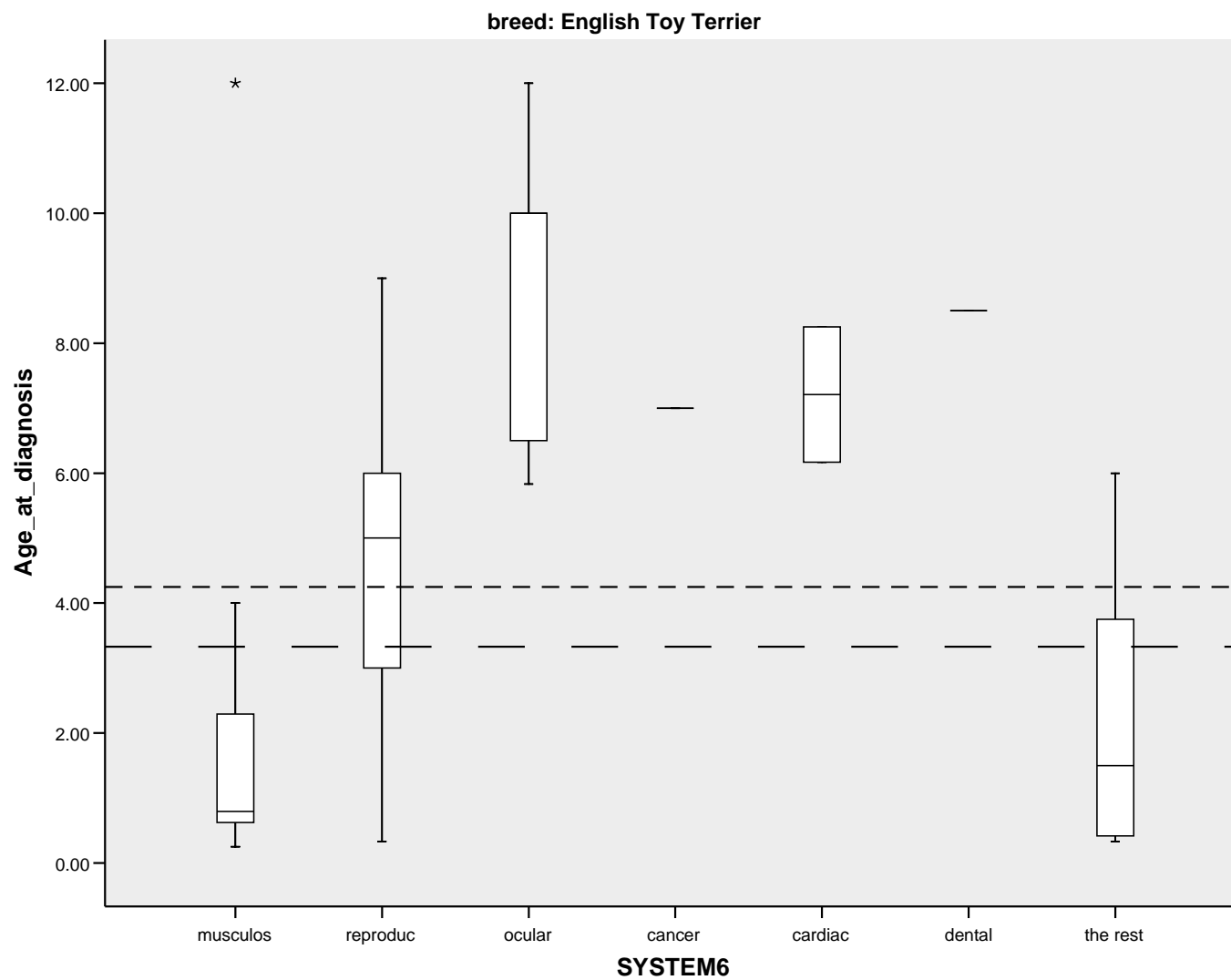


Figure 5. Box and whisker plot of age at diagnosis in years for the most common disease conditions in descending order for English Toy Terriers (N=25 dogs with 40 conditions with age reported). The dashed line (---) is the overall median age at diagnosis for all dogs in the survey and the dotted line (----) is the overall median age at diagnosis for English Toy 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 English Toy Terriers.

Disease condition	All conditions		Most common specific conditions in descending order
	N	%	
1 Musculoskeletal	12	30.0	Patellar luxation; fracture (forelimb)
2 Reproductive	9	22.5	Pyometra; cryptorchid; difficulty whelping (unspecified); spontaneous abortion; vaginitis
3 Ocular	5	12.5	Blindness; cataracts
4 Dermatologic	4	10.0	Mites (demodex); alopecia; dermatitis
5 Cancer	3	7.5	Unspecified (tail); mast cell tumour (MCT)
6 Cardiac	2	5.0	Heart murmur; heart rhythm disorder
7 Neurologic	2	5.0	Deafness; seizures
8 Dental	1	2.5	Dental disease
9 Gastrointestinal	1	2.5	Vomiting
10 Immune mediated	1	2.5	Flea allergy
Total	40	100.0	