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

# Summary results of the
# Purebred Dog Health Survey
# for Greyhounds

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%.

# Greyhounds

A total of 75 forms were sent out and 33 were returned, representing 113 live dogs.  This breed had a 44.0% response rate (33/75) and it represented 0.24% of all returns (33/13,741).

**Mortality data**

A total of 69 deaths were reported and this represents 0.43% of all deaths reported in the survey (69/15,881).  The median age at death for Greyhounds was 9 years and 1 month (min = 4 months, max = 14 years and 2 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 Greyhounds.  Age at death is presented for the most common causes of death (Figure 2).

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

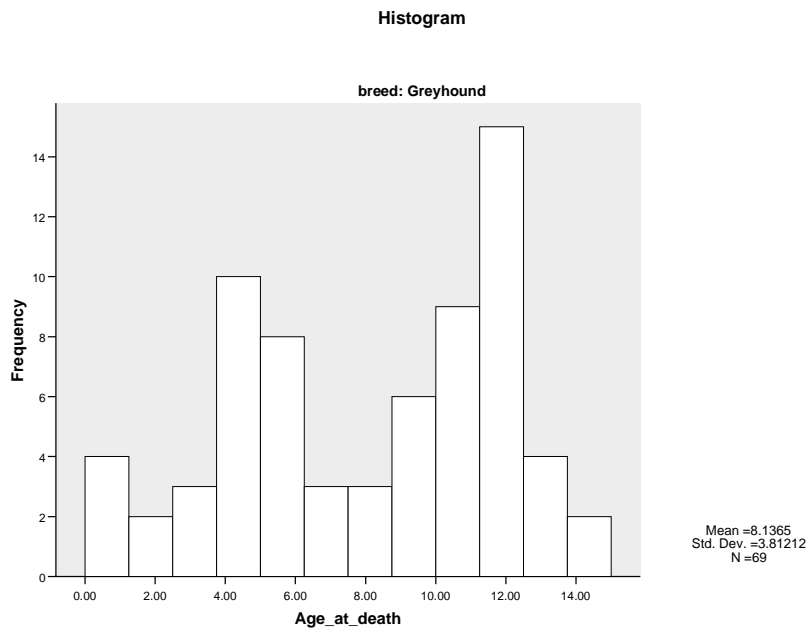| | Cause of death | N | % | Most common specific causes in descending order |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Old age | 12 | 17.4 | Old age |
| 2 | Urologic | 11 | 15.9 | Kidney failure chronic > acute |
| 3 | Cancer | 9 | 13.0 | Unspecified |
| 4 | Cardiac | 9 | 13.0 | Heart failure; heart attack; defect unspecified |
| 5 | Combinations | 5 | 7.2 | |
| 6 | Trauma | 5 | 7.2 | Unspecified; spinal injury |
| 7 | Gastrointestinal | 4 | 5.8 | GDV; oesophagitis; flaccid oesophagus |
| 8 | Other | 4 | 5.8 | Uncodeable |
| 9 | Neurologic | 3 | 4.3 | Meningitis; IVDD |
| 10 | Cerebral vascular | 2 | 2.9 | Stroke or cerebral vascular accident |
| 11 | Behaviour | 1 | 1.4 | Aggression |
| 12 | Cardiovascular | 1 | 1.4 | Embolism |
| 13 | Perioperative | 1 | 1.4 | |
| 14 | Respiratory | 1 | 1.4 | Pneumonia |
| 15 | Unknown | 1 | 1.4 | |
| | Total | 69 | 100.0 | |

**Histogram**

**breed: Greyhound**



Figure 1.  Histogram showing the frequency (as number of dogs) of age at death (in years) for the 69 Greyhound deaths with age at death reported.
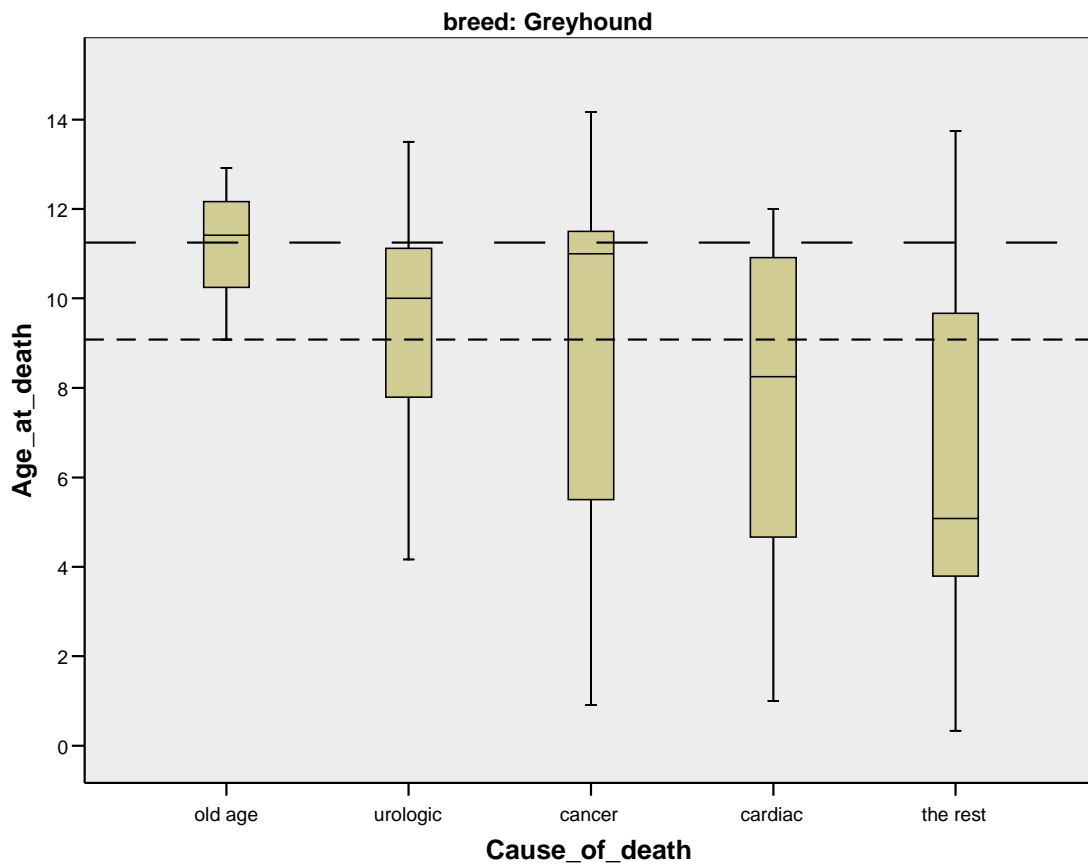
**breed: Greyhound**



Figure 2.  Box and whisker plot of age at death in years for the most common causes of death in Greyhounds (N=69).  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 Greyhounds.  The solid line within each grey box represents the median age at death from the condition.

**Morbidity data**

The median current age of the 110 live dogs with a reported age was 5 years and 2 months (min=2 months, max=12 years and 3 months, Figure 3). Health information was reported for 113 live dogs of which 88 (78%) were healthy and 25 (22%) had at least one reported health condition, resulting in a total of 37 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=88) was 3 years and 10 months (min=2 months, max=12 years and 3 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=24) was 6 years (min=8 months, max=11 years and 4 months). The median age at diagnosis for all disease occurrences with a reported age at diagnosis (N=35) was 4 years and 3 months (min= 3 months, max= 11 years and 6 months, Figure 4). Table 3 shows the disease conditions for Greyhounds. Age at diagnosis is presented for the most common disease conditions (Figure 5).

Table 2. Distribution of gender and neuter status for 113 Greyhounds with reported gender and neuter status.

| | Neuter status | | |
| Gender | Intact | Neutered | Totals |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Female | 52 | 11 | 63 (56%) |
| Male | 38 | 12 | 50 (44%) |
| Totals | 90 (80%) | 23 (20%) | 113 (100%) |

There was no association between gender and neuter status (P=0.4).

**Histogram**



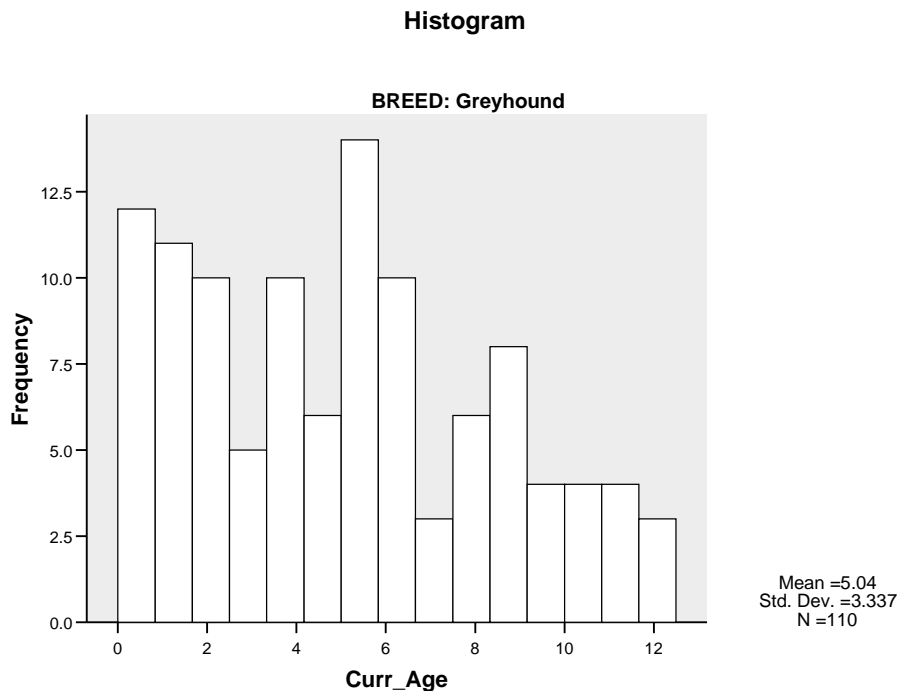Figure 3. Histogram showing frequency of current age in years for the 110 live Greyhounds with age reported.
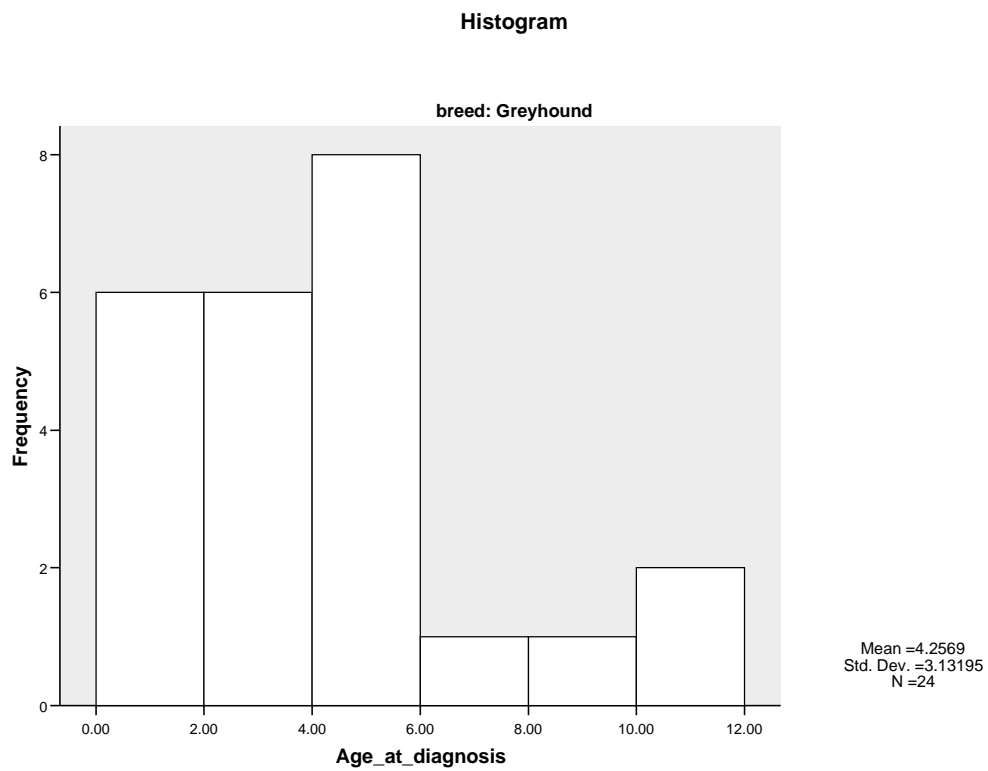
**Histogram**

**breed: Greyhound**



Figure 4. Histogram showing frequency of age at diagnosis for the 24 Greyhounds 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.
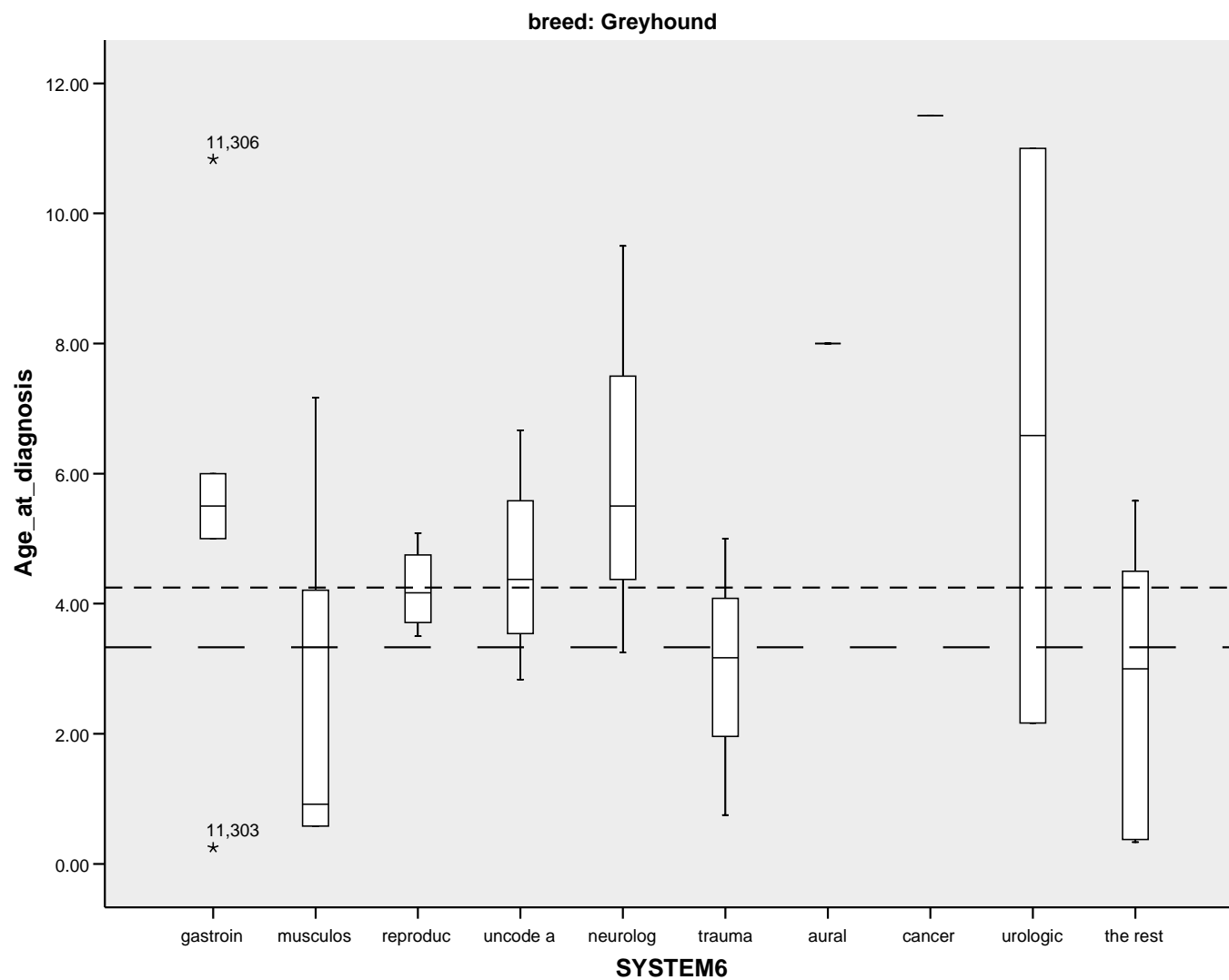
**breed: Greyhound**

Figure 5.  Box and whisker plot of age at diagnosis in years for the most common disease conditions in descending order for Greyhounds (N=24 dogs with 35 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 Greyhounds.  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 Greyhounds.

| Disease condition | All conditions | | Most common specific conditions in descending order |
|---|---|---|---|
| | N | % | |
| 1  Gastrointestinal | 5 | 13.5 | Colitis; gastric dilatation/volvulus (GDV); vomiting |
| 2  Musculoskeletal | 4 | 10.8 | Coxofemoral luxation; CHD; unspecified |
| 3  Reproductive | 4 | 10.8 | False pregnancy; uterine inertia |
| 4  Uncode and other | 4 | 10.8 | Uncodeable |
| 5  Neurologic | 3 | 8.1 | IVDD (cervical); sacroiliac disorder; seizures |
| 6  Trauma | 3 | 8.1 | Forelimb; spine; other (unspecified) |
| 7  Aural | 2 | 5.4 | Otitis externa |
| 8  Cancer | 2 | 5.4 | Type unspecified |
| 9  Cardiac | 2 | 5.4 | Dilated cardiomyopathy; heart rhythm disorder |
| 10  Immune mediated | 2 | 5.4 | Gluten-sensitive enteropathy; food hypersensitivity |
| 11  Unknown | 2 | 5.4 | Undiagnosed illness |
| 12  Urologic | 2 | 5.4 | Incontinence; kidney disease (unspecified) |
| 13  Dental | 1 | 2.7 | Dental disease |
| 14  Ocular | 1 | 2.7 | Blocked tear duct |
| Total | 37 | 100.0 | |