

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

Summary results of the  
Purebred Dog Health Survey  
for Irish Red & White Setters

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%.

## Irish Red & White Setters

A total of 215 forms were sent out and 139 were returned, representing 337 live dogs. This breed had a 64.7% response rate (139/215) and it represented 1.01% of all returns (139/13,741).

### **Mortality data**

A total of 179 deaths were reported and this represents 1.13% of all deaths reported in the survey (179/15,881). The median age at death for Irish Red & White Setters was 11 years and 5 months (min = 11 months, max = 17 years and 6 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 Irish Red & White Setters. Age at death is presented for the most common causes of death (Figure 2).

Table 1. Causes of death by organ system/category for Irish Red & White Setters.

Cause of death	N	%	Most common specific causes in descending order
1 Cancer	54	30.2	Lung (unspec.); mammary (unspec.); mouth (unspec)
2 Old age	34	19.0	Old age
3 Gastrointestinal	15	8.4	Gastric dilation/volvulus; pancreatitis
4 Cardiac	14	7.8	Heart attack; heart failure; heart defect (unspecified)
5 Urologic	12	6.7	Chronic kidney failure; incontinence
6 Perioperative	7	3.9	
7 Combinations	6	3.4	
8 Other	6	3.4	Uncodeable
9 Cerebral vascular	5	2.8	Stroke or cerebral vascular accident
10 Trauma	4	2.2	Road traffic accident; unspecified
11 Respiratory	3	1.7	Unspecified
12 Unknown	3	1.7	
13 Endocrine	2	1.1	Cushings disease; diabetes mellitus
14 Hepatic	2	1.1	Chronic liver failure
15 Immune mediated	2	1.1	Haemolytic anaemia
16 Musculoskeletal	2	1.1	Arthritis
17 Neurologic	2	1.1	Seizures
18 Reproductive	2	1.1	Prostatic cyst; pyometra
19 Portosystemic shunt (PSS)	1	0.6	
20 Behaviour	1	0.6	Aggression
21 Infection	1	0.6	E. coli infection
22 Internal bleeding	1	0.6	
Total	179	100.0	

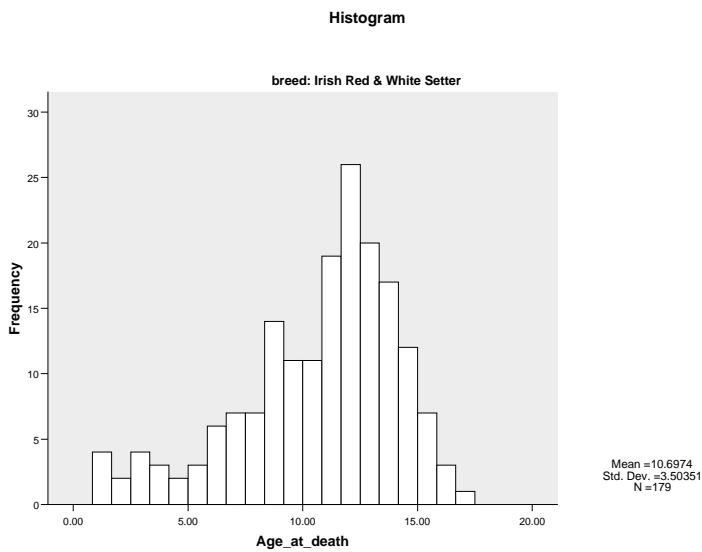


Figure 1. Histogram showing the frequency (as number of dogs) of age at death (in years) for the 179 Irish Red & White Setter deaths with age at death reported.

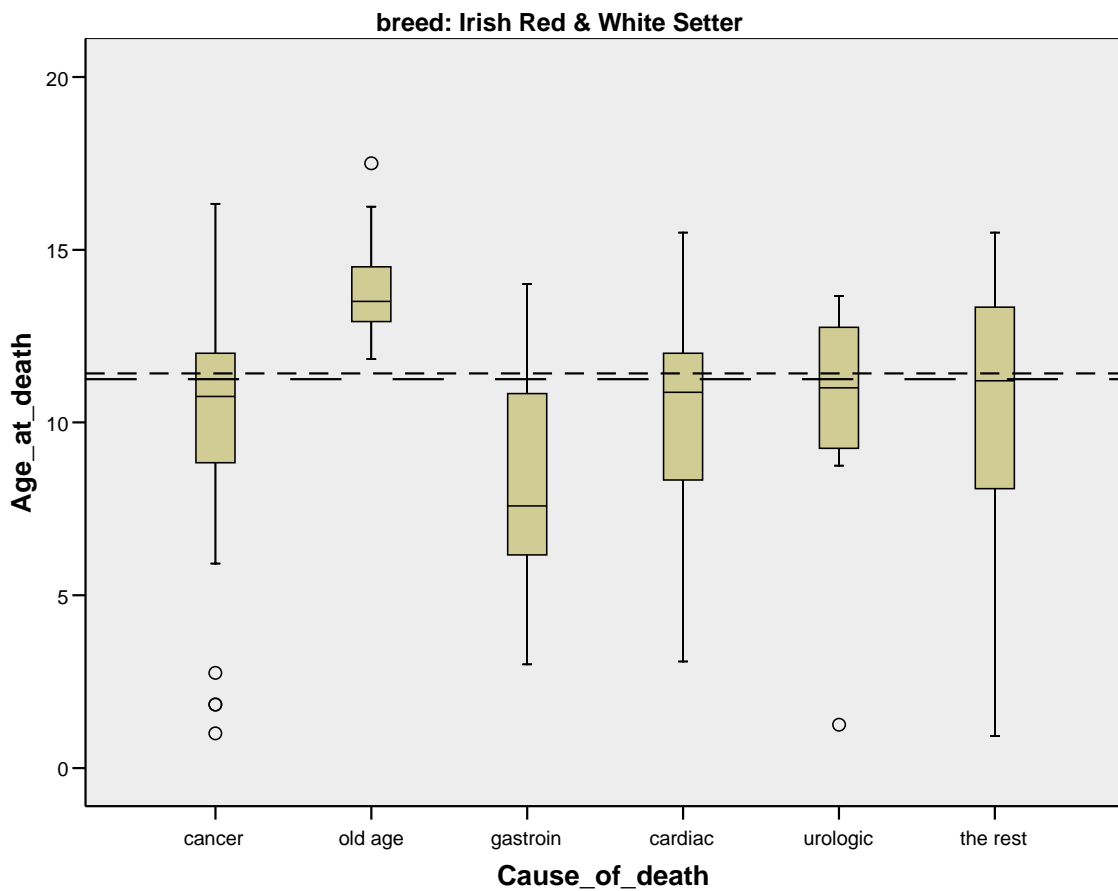


Figure 2. Box and whisker plot of age at death in years for the most common causes of death in Irish Red & White Setters (N=179). The dashed line (---) is the overall median age at death for all dogs in the survey and the dotted line (----) is the overall median age of death for Irish Red & White Setters. The solid line within each grey box represents the median age at death from the condition.

**Morbidity data**

The median current age of the 337 live dogs with a reported age was 5 years and 1 month (min=3 months, max=15 years and 7 months, Figure 3). Health information was reported for 337 live dogs of which 182 (54%) were healthy and 155 (46%) had at least one reported health condition, resulting in a total of 283 reported conditions with a median of 1 condition/dog (min=1, max=8).

The median current age of all healthy dogs with a reported age (N=182) was 4 years (min=3 months, max=15 years and 7 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=150) was 6 years and 9 months (min=7 months, max=13 years and 9 months). The median age at diagnosis for all disease occurrences with a reported age at diagnosis (N=273) was 3 years and 4 months (min= 1 month, max= 12 years and 6 months, Figure 4). Table 3 shows the disease conditions for Irish Red & White Setters. Age at diagnosis is presented for the most common disease conditions (Figure 5).

Table 2. Distribution of gender and neuter status for 337 Irish Red & White Setters with reported gender and neuter status.

Gender	Neuter status		Totals
	Intact	Neutered	
Female	146	49	195 (58%)
Male	119	23	142 (42%)
Totals	265 (79%)	72 (21%)	337 (100%)

Significantly more females were neutered (P=0.0483).

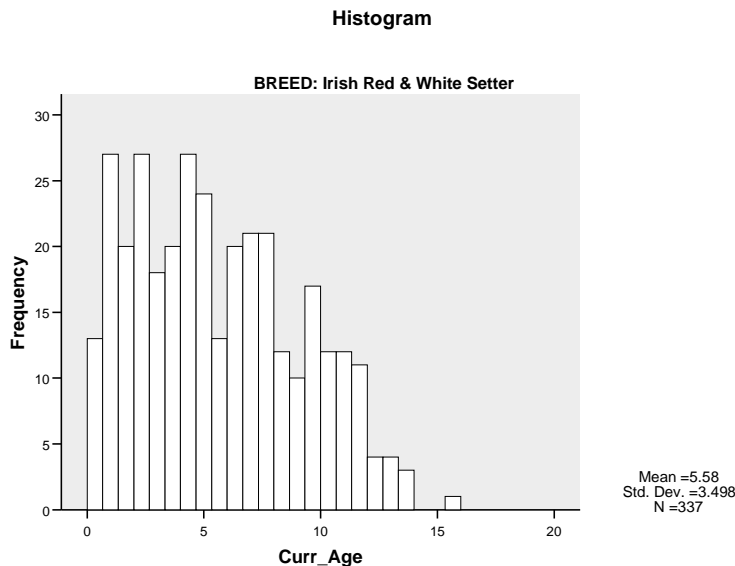


Figure 3. Histogram showing frequency of current age in years for the 337 live Irish Red & White Setters with age reported.

## Histogram

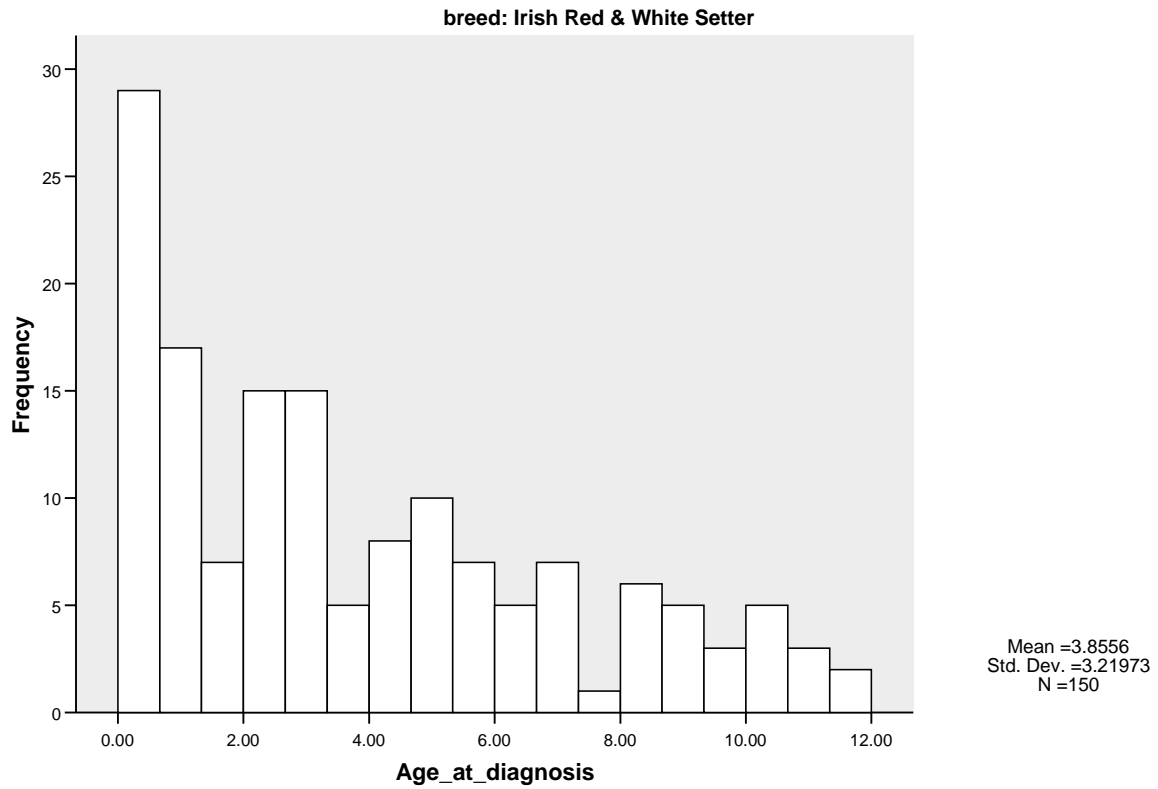


Figure 4. Histogram showing frequency of age at diagnosis for the 150 Irish Red & White Setters with one or more disease conditions, using the youngest age at which a disease condition was first reported for those dogs with more than one disease condition or episode.

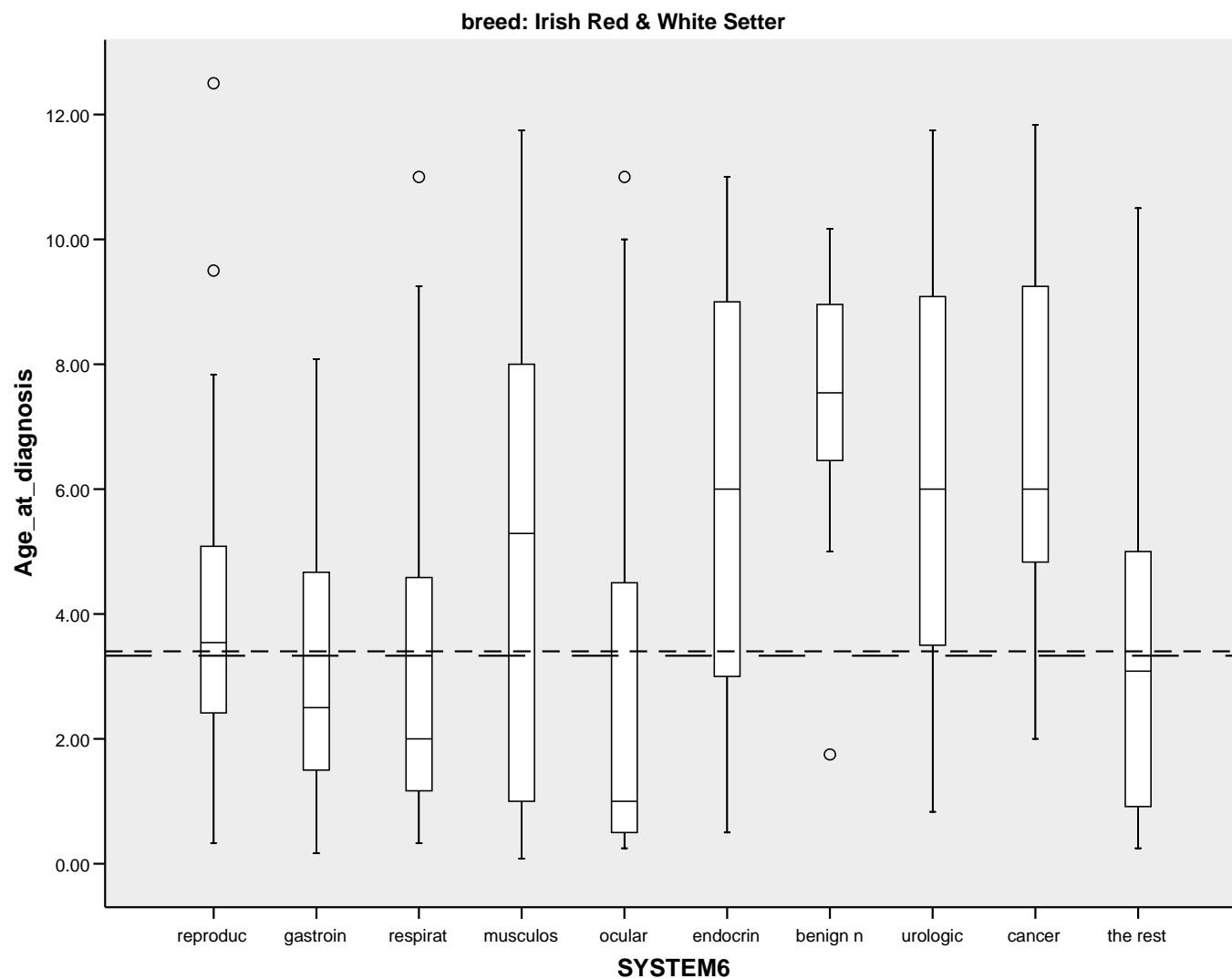


Figure 5. Box and whisker plot of age at diagnosis in years for the most common disease conditions in descending order for Irish Red & White Setters (N=150 dogs with 273 conditions with age reported). The dashed line (---) is the overall median age at diagnosis for all dogs in the survey and the dotted line (----) is the overall median age at diagnosis for Irish Red & White Setters. 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 Irish Red & White Setters.

Disease condition	All conditions		Most common specific conditions in descending order
	N	%	
1 Reproductive	45	15.9	False pregnancy; pyometra; dystochia (uterine inertia=physical blockage); infertility
2 Gastrointestinal	34	12.0	GDV; colitis; diarrhoea; megaesophagus; campylobacter; vomiting & diarrhoea
3 Respiratory	31	11.0	Kennel cough; coughing; noisy breathing; respiratory infection
4 Musculoskeletal	30	10.6	Arthritis (unspecified=shoulders>elbows>hips>rest); CHD; OCD; spondylitis
5 Ocular	23	8.1	Entropion; cataracts; KCS
6 Dermatologic	14	4.9	Fading nose pigment; sebaceous cysts; mites (sarcoptes); dermatitis
7 Endocrine	13	4.6	Hypothyroidism; Cushing's disease; hyperthyroidism; weight loss (undiagnosed)
8 Benign neoplasia	12	4.2	Lipoma; cysts; histiocytoma
9 Cardiac	12	4.2	Heart murmur (unspecified>grade 3>rest); aortic stenosis; arrhythmia; coughing
10 Immune mediated	11	3.9	Gluten-sensitive enteropathy; flea allergy; food hypersensitivity; atopy; AIHA
11 Urologic	11	3.9	Incontinence (unspecified>after spay); cystitis; cysturoliths (calcium oxalate)
12 Cancer	10	3.5	Type unspecified; fibrosarcoma (tail); leukaemia
13 Aural	9	3.2	Otitis externa; ear mites
14 Dental	8	2.8	Retained puppy teeth; defect other than extra teeth
15 Other	6	2.1	Uncodeable
16 Anal gland	3	1.1	Anal sacculitis
17 Neurologic	3	1.1	Seizures
18 Trauma	3	1.1	Skin; spine; vertebrae
19 Unknown	2	0.7	Undiagnosed illness
20 Behaviour	1	0.4	Unspecified
21 Haematopoietic	1	0.4	Von Willebrand disease (VWD)
22 Hepatic	1	0.4	Portsystemic shunt (PSS)
Total	283	100.0	