

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

Summary results of the
Purebred Dog Health Survey
for Irish Water Spaniels

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 Water Spaniels

A total of 210 forms were sent out and 90 were returned, representing 151 live dogs. This breed had a 42.9% response rate (90/210) and it represented 0.65% of all returns (90/13,741).

Mortality data

A total of 95 deaths were reported and this represents 0.60% of all deaths reported in the survey (95/15,881). The median age at death for Irish Water Spaniels was 9 years and 4 months (min = 7 months, max = 17 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 Irish Water Spaniels. 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 Water Spaniels.

Cause of death	N	%	Most common specific causes in descending order
1 Cancer	53	55.8	Lymphoma; type unspecified (liver, unspecified)
2 Old age	10	10.5	Old age &nd age combinations
3 Other	5	5.3	Uncodeable
4 Behaviour	3	3.2	Aggression; unspecified
5 Endocrine	3	3.2	Addisons disease; Cushings disease; diabetes mellitus
6 Cerebral vascular	2	2.1	Stroke or cerebral vascular accident
7 Combinations	2	2.1	
8 Poisoning	2	2.1	
9 Trauma	2	2.1	Unspecified
10 Unknown	2	2.1	
11 Cardiac	1	1.1	Heart defect unspecified
12 Cardiovascular	1	1.1	Thrombosis
13 Dermatologic	1	1.1	Skin disease unspecified
14 Gastrointestinal	1	1.1	Gastric dilatation/volvulus (GDV)
15 Hepatic	1	1.1	Hepatitis
16 Immune mediated	1	1.1	Thrombocytopaenia
17 Neurologic	1	1.1	Seizures
18 Respiratory	1	1.1	Respiratory failure unspecified
19 Sudden death	1	1.1	
20 Systemic	1	1.1	Allergy to insect bite or sting or snake bite
21 Urologic	1	1.1	Kidney failure
Total	95	100.0	

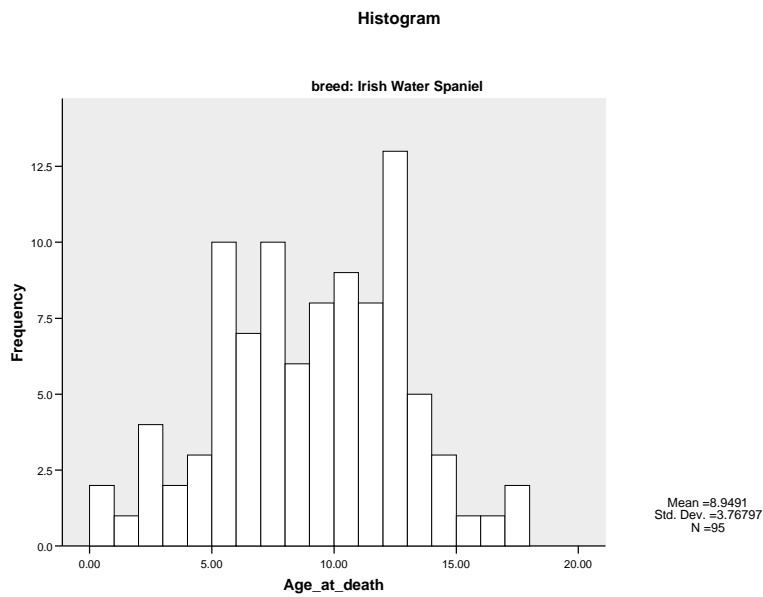


Figure 1. Histogram showing the frequency (as number of dogs) of age at death (in years) for the 95 Irish Water Spaniel deaths with age at death reported.

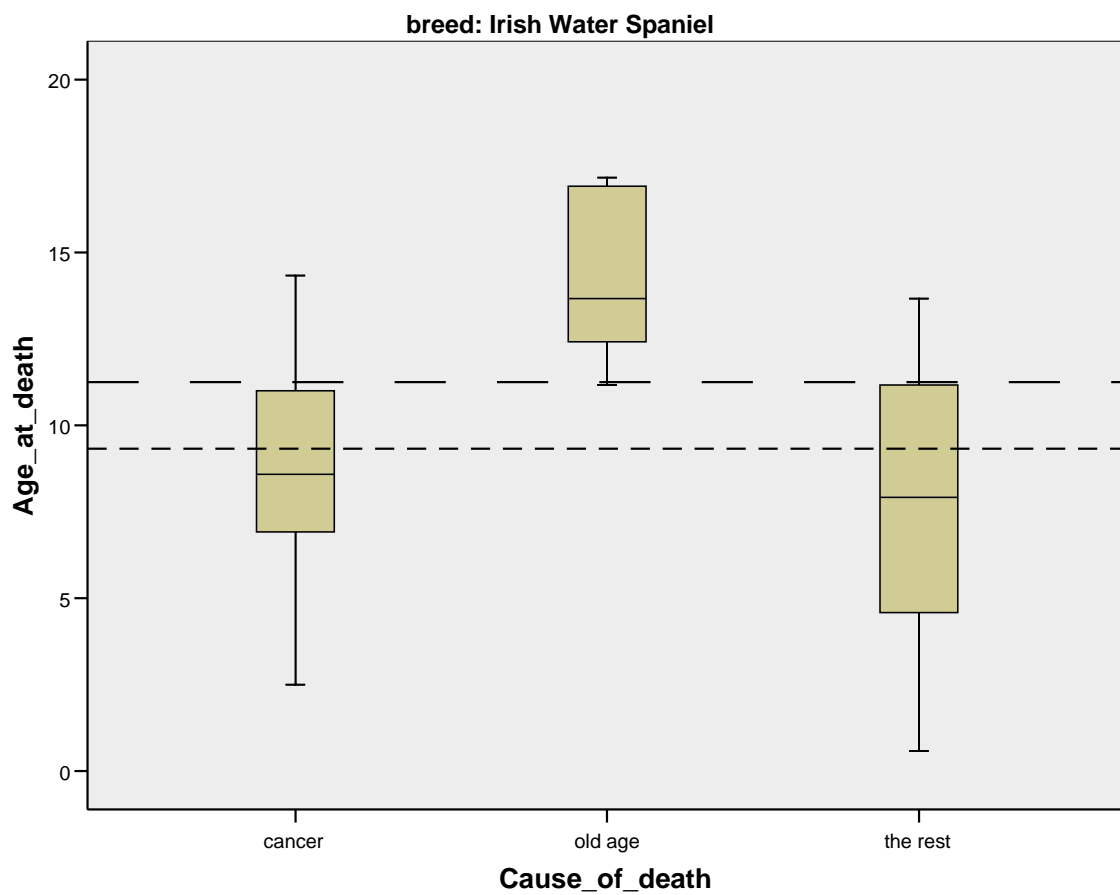


Figure 2. Box and whisker plot of age at death in years for the most common causes of death in Irish Water Spaniels (N=95). The dashed line (---) is the overall median age at death for all dogs in the survey and the dotted line (----) is the overall median age of death for Irish Water Spaniels. The solid line within each grey box represents the median age at death from the condition.

Morbidity data

The median current age of the 151 live dogs with a reported age was 4 years and 2 months (min=3 months, max=13 years and 11 months, Figure 3). Health information was reported for 151 live dogs of which 88 (58%) were healthy and 63 (42%) had at least one reported health condition, resulting in a total of 104 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=88) was 3 years and 4 months (min=3 months, max=11 years and 4 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=59) was 6 years and 1 month (min=5 months, max=13 years and 11 months). The median age at diagnosis for all disease occurrences with a reported age at diagnosis (N=96) was 3 years and 2 months (min= 3 months, max= 12 years and 4 months, Figure 4). Table 3 shows the disease conditions for Irish Water Spaniels. Age at diagnosis is presented for the most common disease conditions (Figure 5).

Table 2. Distribution of gender and neuter status for 149 Irish Water Spaniels with reported gender and neuter status.

Gender	Neuter status		Totals
	Intact	Neutered	
Female	52	29	81 (54%)
Male	53	15	68 (46%)
Totals	105 (70%)	44 (30%)	149 (100%)

There was no association between gender and neuter status (P=0.0670).



Figure 3. Histogram showing frequency of current age in years for the 151 live Irish Water Spaniels with age reported.

Histogram

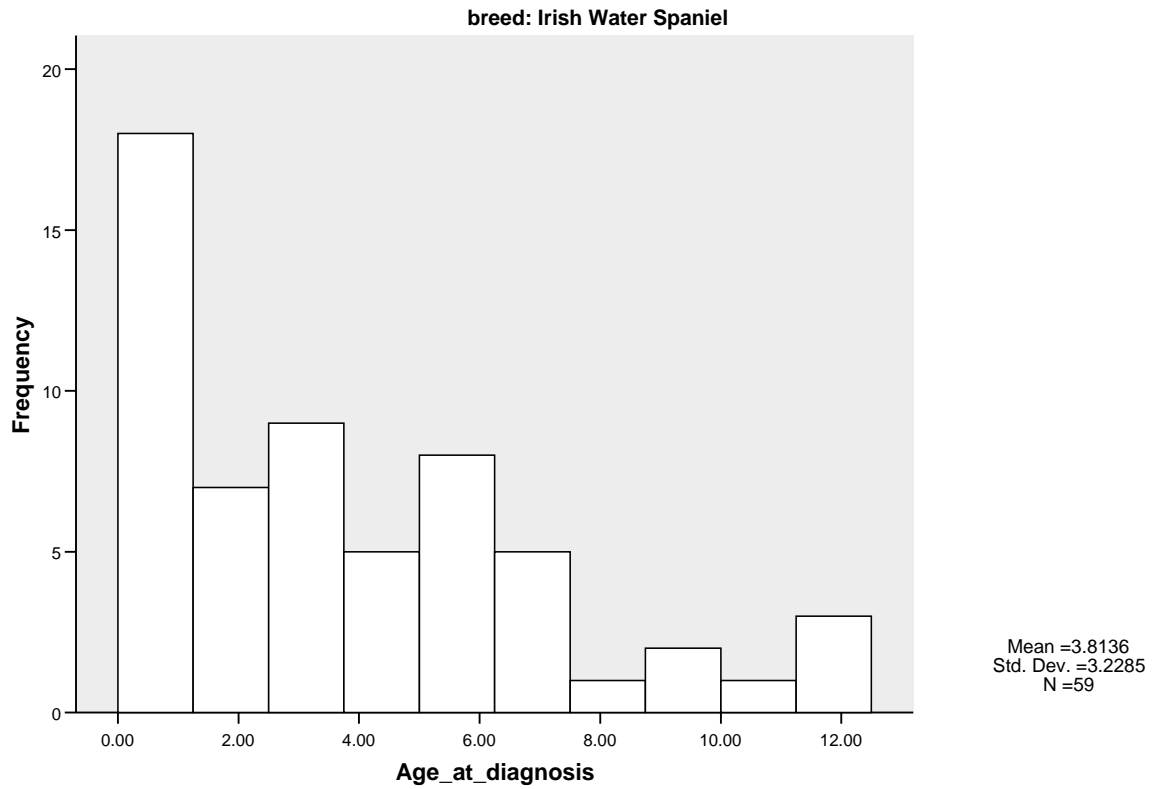


Figure 4. Histogram showing frequency of age at diagnosis for the 59 Irish Water Spaniels with one or more disease conditions, using the youngest age at which a disease condition was first reported for those dogs with more than one disease condition or episode.

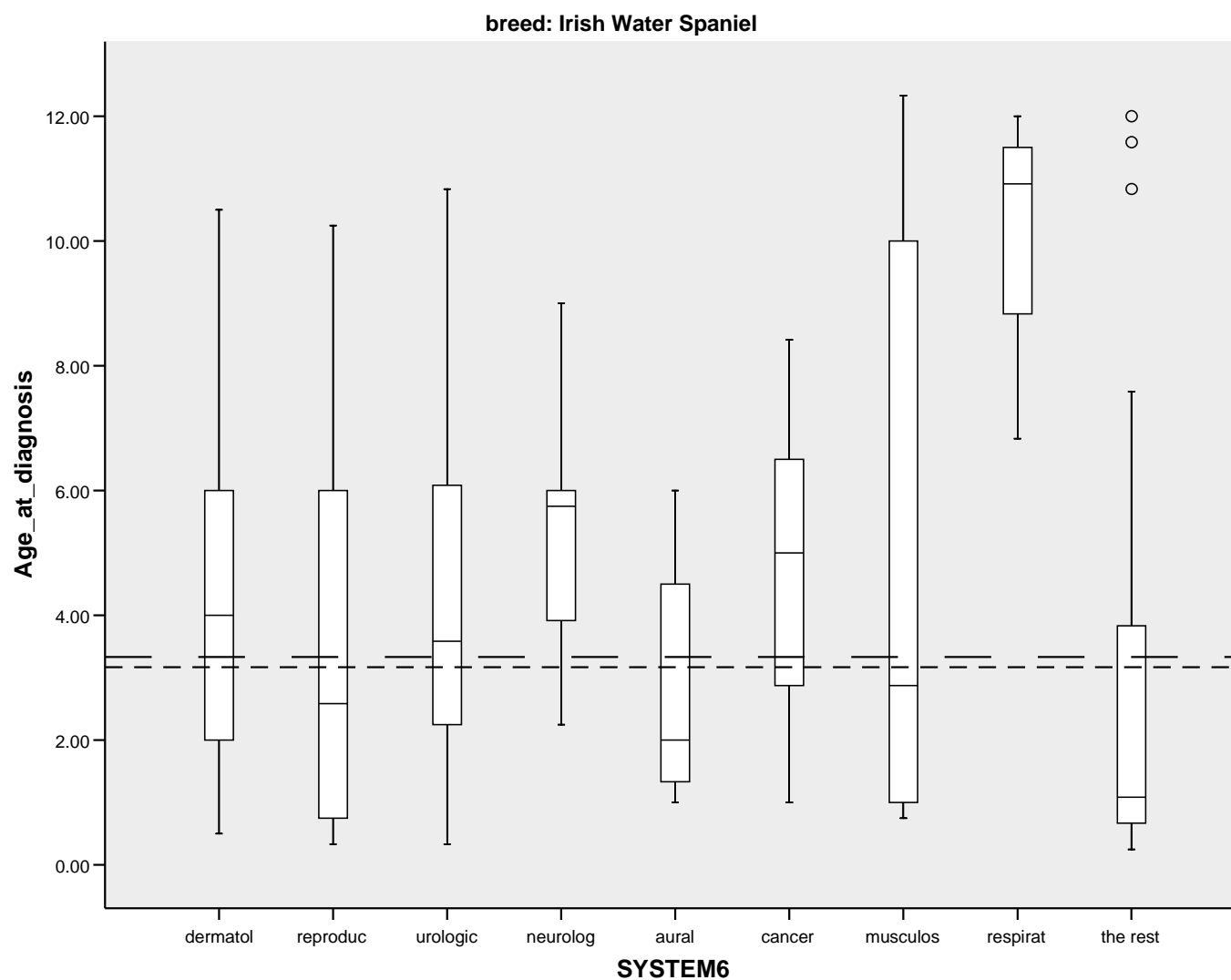


Figure 5. Box and whisker plot of age at diagnosis in years for the most common disease conditions in descending order for Irish Water Spaniels (N=59 dogs with 96 conditions with age reported). The dashed line (---) is the overall median age at diagnosis for all dogs in the survey and the dotted line (----) is the overall median age at diagnosis for Irish Water Spaniels. 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 Water Spaniels.

Disease condition	All conditions		Most common specific conditions in descending order
	N	%	
1 Dermatologic	20	19.2	Alopecia; follicular dysplasia; paronychia; dermatitis
2 Reproductive	12	11.5	False pregnancy; pyometra; irregular heat cycles
3 Urologic	12	11.5	Cystitis; incontinence (after spay>unspecified); bladder stones (struvite); haematuria
4 Neurologic	10	9.6	Seizures; deafness; IVDD (unspecified)
5 Aural	7	6.7	Otitis externa; excessive ear wax
6 Cancer	7	6.7	Type unspecified (skin); melanoma
7 Musculoskeletal	6	5.8	CHD; arthritis (forelimb=unspecified); CLR; patellar luxation
8 Ocular	6	5.8	Eye infections; cataracts; entropion; distichiasis; red eye
9 Immune mediated	4	3.8	Atopy; food allergy; wasp sting allergy
10 Respiratory	4	3.8	Bronchitis; coughing; kennel cough; laryngeal paralysis
11 Other	4	3.8	Uncodeable
12 Dental	3	2.9	Retained puppy teeth; defect other than extra teeth
13 Gastrointestinal	3	2.9	Campylobacter; colitis; diarrhoea
14 Benign neoplasia	2	1.9	Lipoma
15 Cardiac	1	1.0	Arrhythmia
16 Endocrine	1	1.0	Cushings disease
17 Hepatic	1	1.0	Portosystemic shunt (PSS)
18 Trauma	1	1.0	Dermatologic
Total	104	100.0	