

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

Summary results of the
Purebred Dog Health Survey
for Irish Wolfhounds

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 Wolfhounds

A total of 261 forms were sent out and 40 were returned, representing 123 live dogs. This breed had a 15.3% response rate (40/261) and it represented 0.29% of all returns (40/13,741).

Mortality data

A total of 112 deaths were reported and this represents 0.71% of all deaths reported in the survey (112/15,881). The median age at death for Irish Wolfhounds was 7 years and 0 months (min = 1 year and 2 months, max = 17 years and 7 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 Wolfhounds. 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 Wolfhounds.

Cause of death	N	%	Most common specific causes in descending order
1 Cancer	38	33.9	Osteosarcoma
2 Cardiac	22	19.6	Cardiomyopathy (unspecified); heart failure
3 Gastrointestinal	14	12.5	Gastric dilatation/volvulus (GDV)
4 Combinations	6	5.4	
5 Urologic	6	5.4	Kidney failure (chronic > acute)
6 Old age	5	4.5	Old age & age combinations
7 Cerebral vascular	4	3.6	Stroke or cerebral vascular accident
8 Neurologic	3	2.7	CDRM; spinal disease unspecified
9 Other	3	2.7	Uncodeable
10 Perioperative	3	2.7	
11 Endocrine	2	1.8	Addisons disease; Cushings disease
12 Respiratory	2	1.8	Pneumonia; unspecified
13 Behaviour	1	0.9	Aggression
14 Musculoskeletal	1	0.9	Arthritis
15 Reproductive	1	0.9	Died after bad whelping
16 Unknown	1	0.9	
Total	112	100.0	

CDRM= chronic degenerative radiculomyelopathy

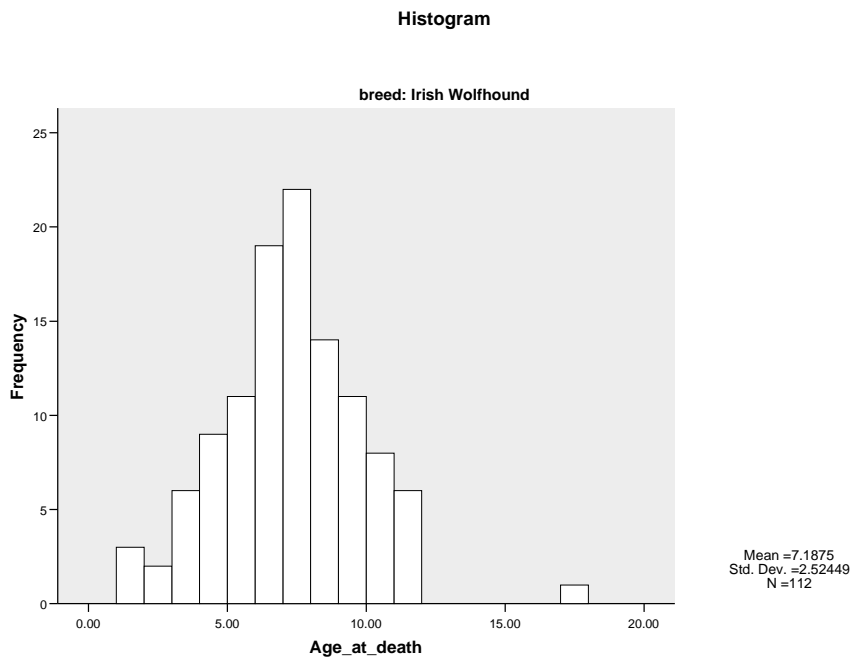


Figure 1. Histogram showing the frequency (as number of dogs) of age at death (in years) for the 112 Irish Wolfhound deaths with age at death reported.

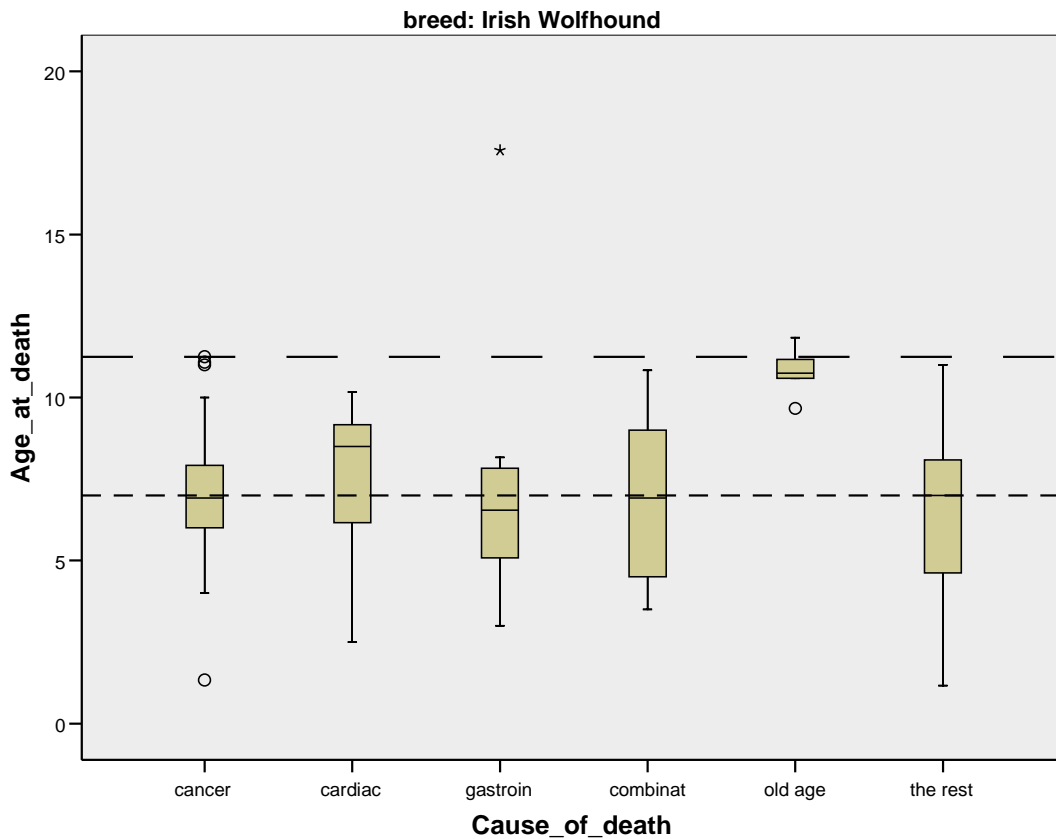


Figure 2. Box and whisker plot of age at death in years for the most common causes of death in Irish Wolfhounds (N=112). The dashed line (---) is the overall median age at death for all dogs in the survey and the dotted line (----) is the overall median age of death for Irish Wolfhounds. The solid line within each grey box represents the median age at death from the condition.

Morbidity data

The median current age of the 123 live dogs with a reported age was 3 years and 6 months (min=8 months, max=15 years and 4 months, Figure 3). Health information was reported for 123 live dogs of which 76 (62%) were healthy and 47 (38%) had at least one reported health condition, resulting in a total of 76 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=76) was 2 years and 12 months (min=8 months, max=15 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=45) was 5 years (min=1 year and 2 months, max=11 years and 8 months). The median age at diagnosis for all disease occurrences with a reported age at diagnosis (N=74) was 2 years and 9 months (min= 3 months, max= 11 years, Figure 4). Table 3 shows the disease conditions for Irish Wolfhounds. Age at diagnosis is presented for the most common disease conditions (Figure 5).

Table 2. Distribution of gender and neuter status for 123 Irish Wolfhounds with reported gender and neuter status.

Gender	Neuter status		Totals
	Intact	Neutered	
Female	67	11	78 (63%)
Male	43	2	45 (37%)
Totals	110 (89%)	13 (11%)	123 (100%)

There was no association between gender and neuter status (P=0.0933).

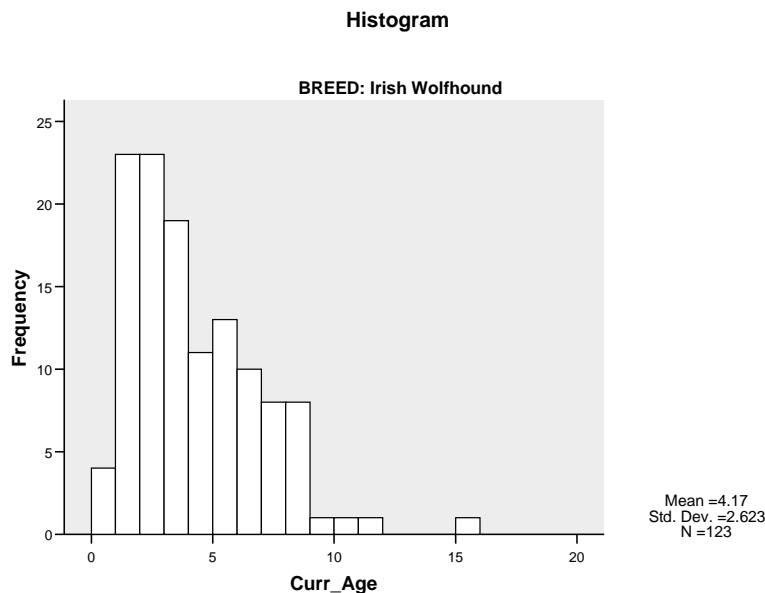


Figure 3. Histogram showing frequency of current age in years for the 123 live Irish Wolfhounds with age reported.

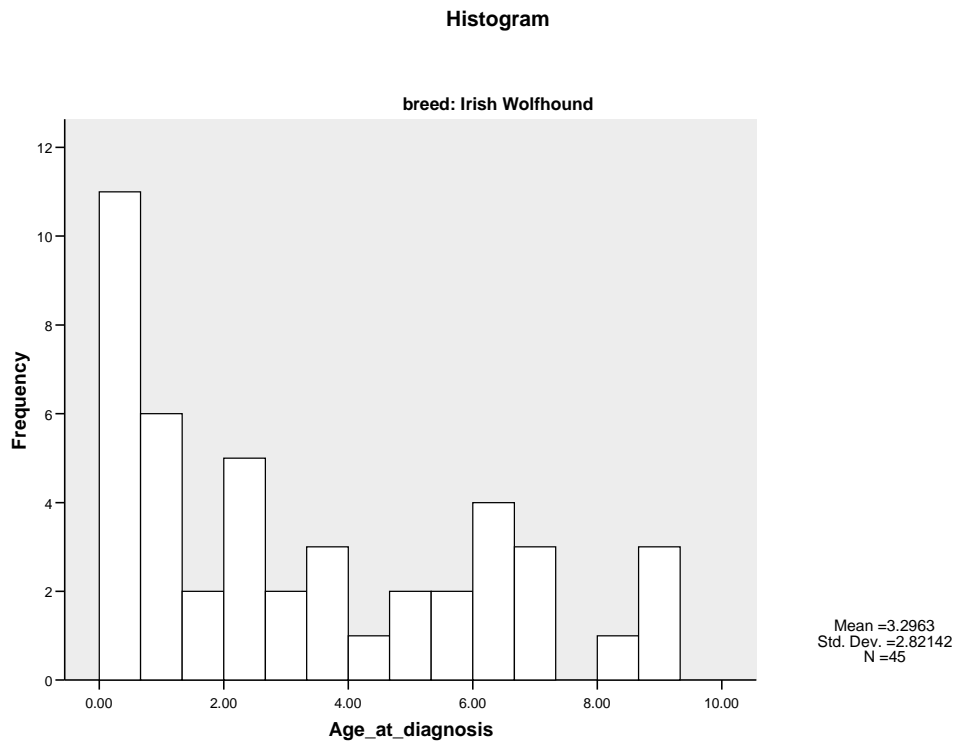


Figure 4. Histogram showing frequency of age at diagnosis for the 45 Irish Wolfhounds with one or more disease conditions, using the youngest age at which a disease condition was first reported for those dogs with more than one disease condition or episode.

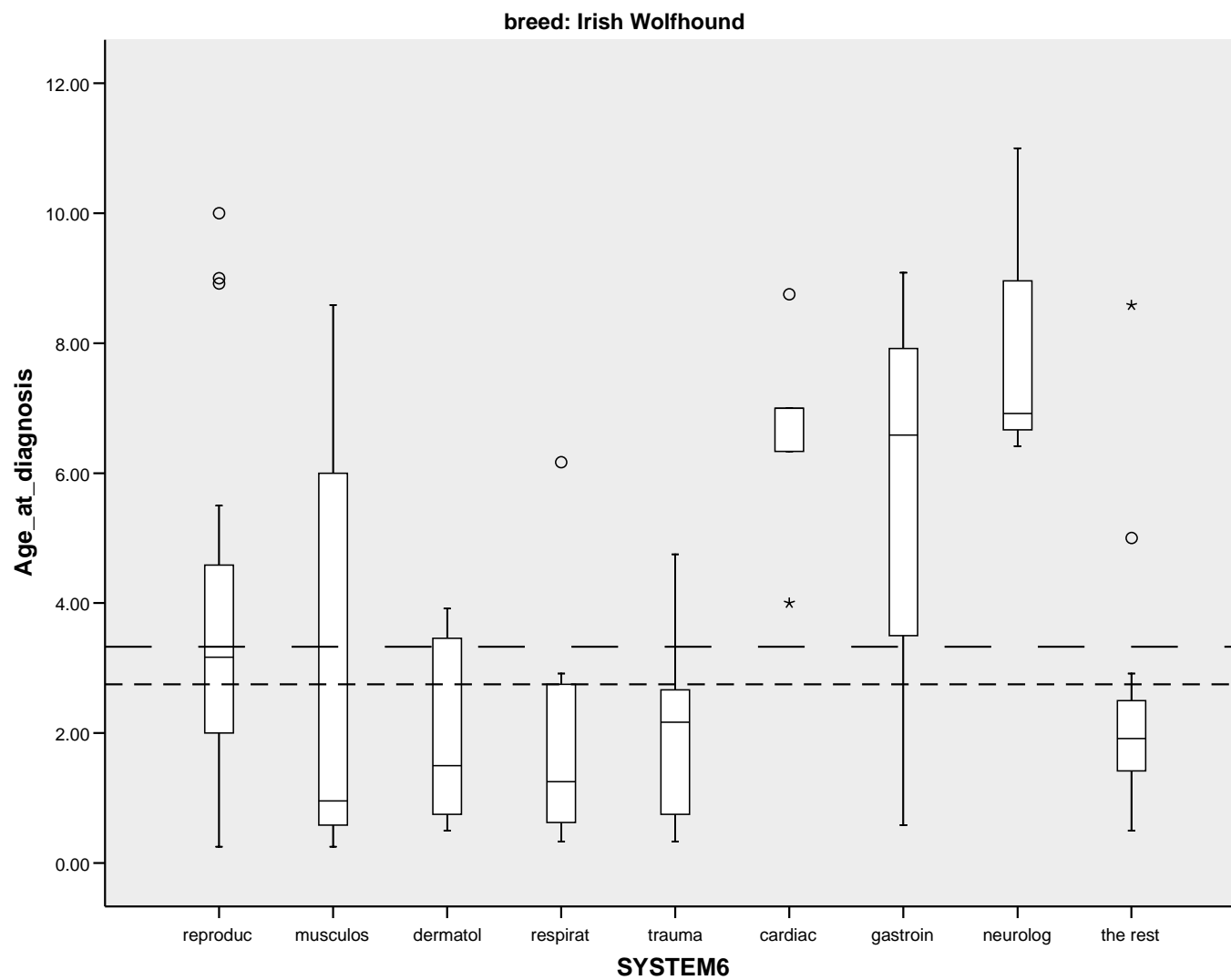


Figure 5. Box and whisker plot of age at diagnosis in years for the most common disease conditions in descending order for Irish Wolfhounds (N=45 dogs with 74 conditions with age reported). The dashed line (---) is the overall median age at diagnosis for all dogs in the survey and the dotted line (----) is the overall median age at diagnosis for Irish Wolfhounds. 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 Wolfhounds.

Disease condition	All conditions		Most common specific conditions in descending order
	N	%	
1 Reproductive	20	26.3	Dystochia (uterine inertia); irregular heat cycles; pyometra; cryptorchid
2 Musculoskeletal	10	13.2	OCD (shoulder>elbow); elbow dysplasia; CHD; spondylitis; prognathism
3 Dermatologic	8	10.5	Recurrent pyoderma; mites (cheyletiella=sarcoptes); calcinosis circumscripta
4 Respiratory	7	9.2	Kennel cough; bronchitis; pneumonia
5 Trauma	7	9.2	Dermatologic; musculoskeletal (forelimb>hindlimb=tail); neurologic
6 Cardiac	5	6.6	Cardiomyopathy (dilated>unspecified); atrial fibrillation; heart valve condition unspecified
7 Gastrointestinal	4	5.3	Gastric dilatation/volvulus (GDV); pancreatitis; vomiting
8 Neurologic	4	5.3	IVDD (cervical); seizures; Wobbler syndrome
9 Urologic	4	5.3	Cystitis
10 Immune mediated	2	2.6	Gluten-sensitive enteropathy; thrombocytopaenia
11 Anal gland	1	1.3	Anal sacculitis
12 Cancer	1	1.3	Type unspecified (mammary)
13 Dental	1	1.3	Retained puppy teeth
14 Endocrine	1	1.3	Hypothyroidism
15 Other	1	1.3	Uncodeable
Total	76	100.0	