

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

Summary results of the  
Purebred Dog Health Survey  
for Italian 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%.

## Italian Greyhounds

A total of 229 forms were sent out and 42 were returned, representing 122 live dogs. This breed had a 14.6% response rate (42/229) and it represented 0.31% of all returns (42/13,741).

### **Mortality data**

A total of 46 deaths were reported and this represents 0.29% of all deaths reported in the survey (46/15,881). The median age at death for Italian Greyhounds was 13 years and 6 months (min = 6 months, max = 18 years) and this was higher than the overall median of 11 years and 3 months (Figure 1). Table 1 shows the causes of death for Italian 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 Italian Greyhounds.

Cause of death	N	%	Most common specific causes in descending order
1 Old age	13	28.3	Old age & age combinations
2 Cancer	7	15.2	Type unspecified (mammary); carcinoma; haemangiosarcoma
3 Cardiac	7	15.2	Heart failure; cardiomegaly
4 Cerebral vascular	5	10.9	Stroke or cerebral vascular accident
5 Trauma	3	6.5	Unspecified
6 Gastrointestinal	2	4.3	Gastric dilatation/volvulus (GDV); gastroenteritis
7 Musculoskeletal	2	4.3	Osteoporosis
8 Behaviour	1	2.2	Aggression
9 Combinations	1	2.2	
10 Hepatic	1	2.2	Liver failure
11 Immune mediated	1	2.2	Thrombocytopaenia
12 Neurologic	1	2.2	Spinal disease unspecified
13 Respiratory	1	2.2	Pulmonary bullae
14 Unknown	1	2.2	
Total	46	100.0	

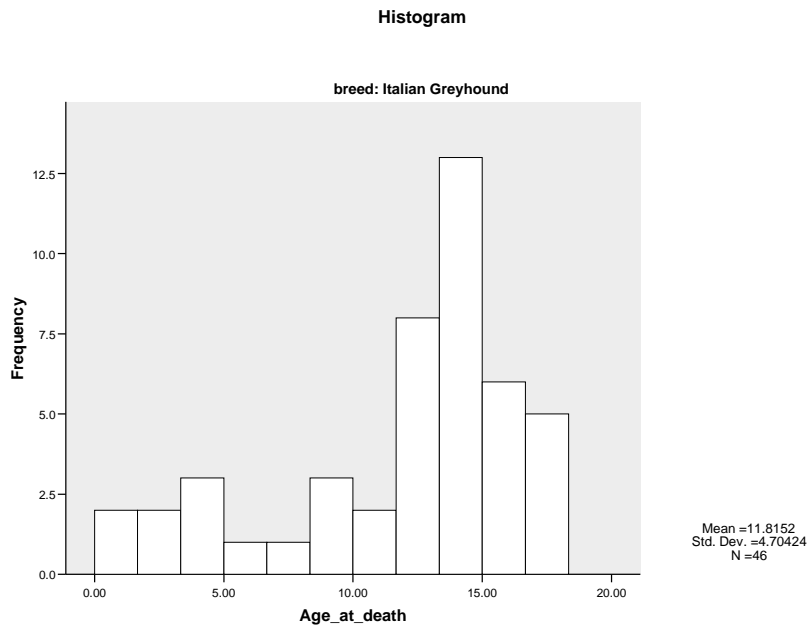


Figure 1. Histogram showing the frequency (as number of dogs) of age at death (in years) for the 46 Italian Greyhound deaths with age at death reported.

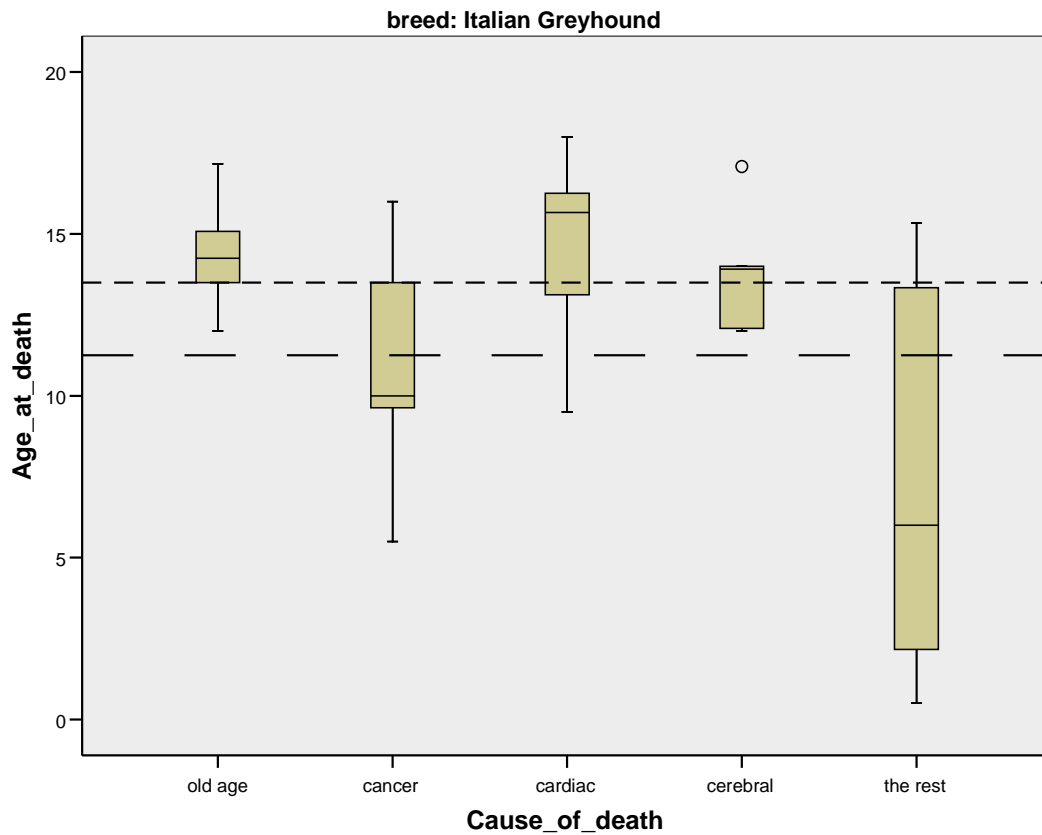


Figure 2. Box and whisker plot of age at death in years for the most common causes of death in Italian Greyhounds (N=46). The dashed line (---) is the overall median age at death for all dogs in the survey and the dotted line (----) is the overall median age of death for Italian Greyhounds. The solid line within each grey box represents the median age at death from the condition.

**Morbidity data**

The median current age of the 122 live dogs with a reported age was 4 years and 8 months (min=3 months, max=15 years and 2 months, Figure 3). Health information was reported for 122 live dogs of which 65 (53%) were healthy and 57 (47%) had at least one reported health condition, resulting in a total of 107 reported conditions with a median of 1 condition/dog (min=1, max=6).

The median current age of all healthy dogs with a reported age (N=65) was 3 years and 5 months (min=3 months, max=14 years and 2 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=55) was 6 years and 6 months (min=7 months, max=15 years and 2 months). The median age at diagnosis for all disease occurrences with a reported age at diagnosis (N=103) was 3 years (min= 2 months, max= 13 years and 11 months, Figure 4). Table 3 shows the disease conditions for Italian Greyhounds. Age at diagnosis is presented for the most common disease conditions (Figure 5).

Table 2. Distribution of gender and neuter status for 120 Italian Greyhounds with reported gender and neuter status.

Gender	Neuter status		Totals
	Intact	Neutered	
Female	49	22	71 (59%)
Male	34	15	49 (41%)
Totals	83 (69%)	37 (31%)	120 (100%)

There was no association between gender and neuter status (P=0.9652).

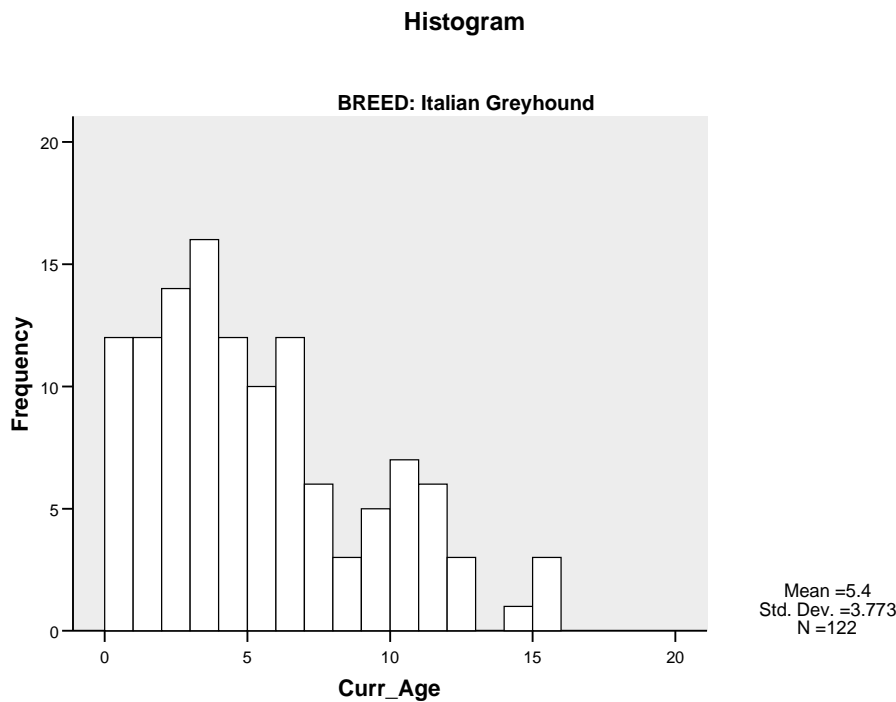


Figure 3. Histogram showing frequency of current age in years for the 122 live Italian Greyhounds with age reported.

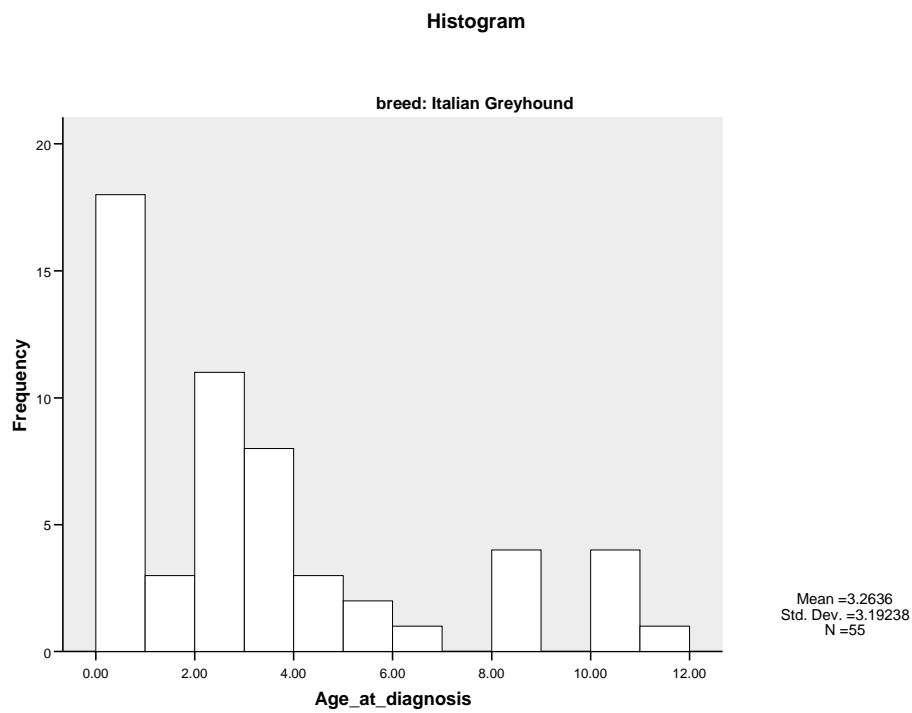


Figure 4. Histogram showing frequency of age at diagnosis for the 55 Italian Greyhounds with one or more disease conditions, using the youngest age at which a disease condition was first reported for those dogs with more than one disease condition or episode.

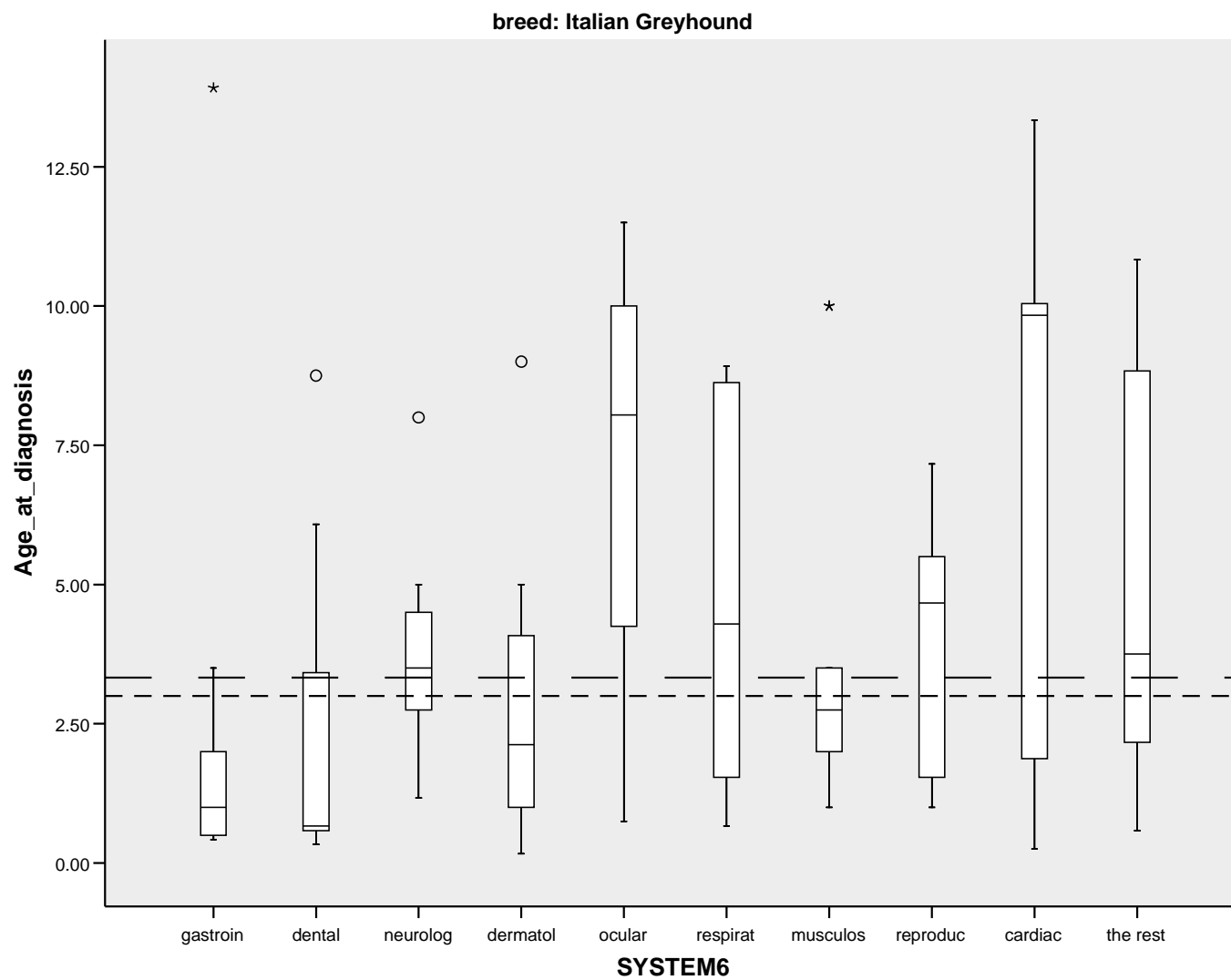


Figure 5. Box and whisker plot of age at diagnosis in years for the most common disease conditions in descending order for Italian Greyhounds (N=55 dogs with 103 conditions with age reported). The dashed line (---) is the overall median age at diagnosis for all dogs in the survey and the dotted line (----) is the overall median age at diagnosis for Italian 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 Italian Greyhounds.

Disease condition	All conditions		Most common specific conditions in descending order
	N	%	
1 Gastrointestinal	18	16.8	Colitis; diarrhoea; gastroenteritis; haemorrhagic gastroenteritis; IBD
2 Dental	13	12.1	Retained puppy teeth; dental disease
3 Neurologic	11	10.3	Seizures
4 Dermatologic	10	9.3	Alopecia; follicular dysplasia; mites (demodex=sarcoptes); dermatitis
5 Ocular	10	9.3	Cataracts; epiphora
6 Respiratory	10	9.3	Kennel cough; noisy breathing; coughing; long soft palate; rhinitis
7 Musculoskeletal	9	8.4	Fracture (forelimb>hind paw); arthritis (unspecified); patellar luxation
8 Reproductive	8	7.5	Dystochia (uterine inertia>physical blockage); cryptorchid; false pregnancy
9 Cardiac	7	6.5	Heart murmur; heart valve condition (unspecified); PDA; aortic stenosis; congestive heart failure (CHF)
10 Trauma	3	2.8	Musculoskeletal (forelimb; hindlimb; tail)
11 Cancer	2	1.9	Carcinoma (mammary); type unspecified (mammary)
12 Other	2	1.9	Uncodeable
13 Behaviour	1	0.9	Unspecified
14 Endocrine	1	0.9	Unspecified
15 Hepatic	1	0.9	Hepatitis
16 Immune mediated	1	0.9	Atopy
Total	107	100.0	

PDA=persistent ductus arteriosus (congenital heart defect)