

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

Summary results of the
Purebred Dog Health Survey
for the Italian Spinone breed

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%.

The Italian Spinone breed

A total of 376 forms were sent out and 122 were returned, representing 222 live dogs. This breed had a 32.4% response rate (122/376) and it represented 0.89% of all returns (122/13,741).

Mortality data

A total of 47 deaths were reported and this represents 0.30% of all deaths reported in the survey (47/15,881). The median age at death for the Italian Spinone breed was 9 years (min = 7 months, max = 16 years) and this was lower than the overall median of 11 years and 3 months (Figure 1). Table 1 shows the causes of death for the Italian Spinone breed. Age at death is presented for the most common causes of death (Figure 2).

Table 1. Causes of death by organ system/category for the Italian Spinone breed.

Cause of death	N	%	Most common specific causes in descending order
1 Cancer	21	44.7	Type unspecified (bone, liver, spleen)
2 Old age	7	14.9	Old age & age combinations
3 Urologic	4	8.5	Chronic kidney failure; unspecified
4 Combinations	3	6.4	
5 Gastrointestinal	3	6.4	Gastric dilatation/volvulus (GDV)
6 Behaviour	2	4.3	Aggression; unspecified
7 Cardiac	1	2.1	Cardiomegaly (enlarged heart)
8 Cerebral vascular	1	2.1	Stroke or cerebral vascular accident
9 Collapse	1	2.1	
10 Dermatologic	1	2.1	Unspecified
11 Neurologic	1	2.1	Spinal disease unspecified
12 Senility	1	2.1	
13 Trauma	1	2.1	Unspecified
Total	47	100.0	

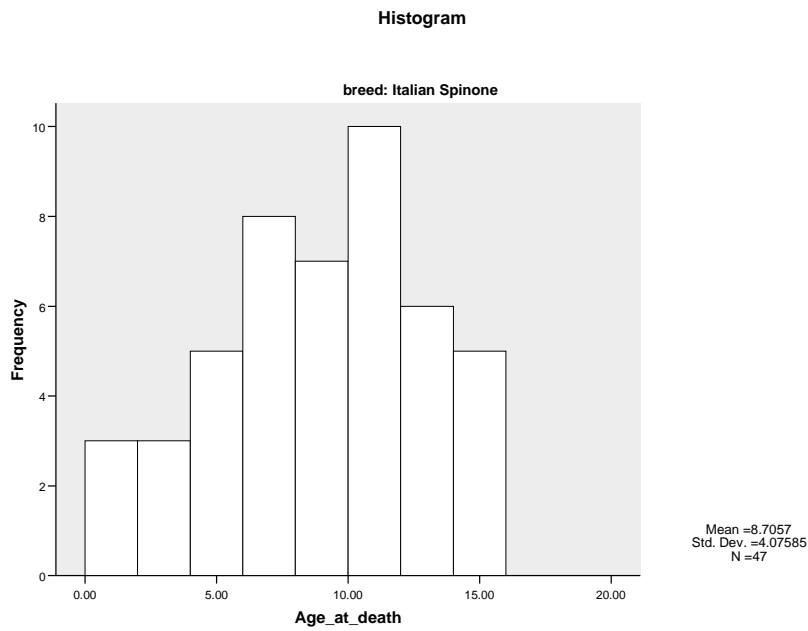


Figure 1. Histogram showing the frequency (as number of dogs) of age at death (in years) for the 47 Italian Spinone deaths with age at death reported.

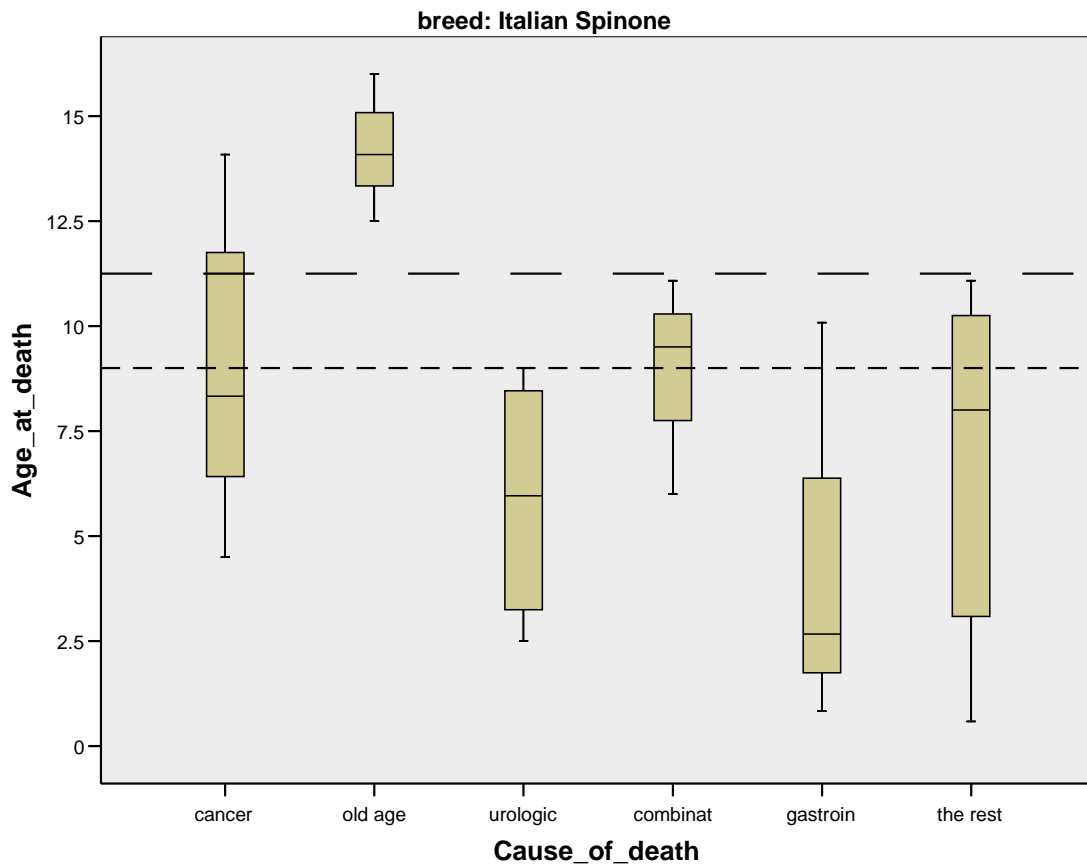


Figure 2. Box and whisker plot of age at death in years for the most common causes of death in the Italian Spinone breed (N=47). The dashed line (---) is the overall median age at death for all dogs in the survey and the dotted line (----) is the overall median age of death for the Italian Spinone breed. The solid line within each grey box represents the median age at death from the condition.

Morbidity data

The median current age of the 219 live dogs with a reported age was 5 years and 1 month (min=3 months, max=15 years, Figure 3). Health information was reported for 222 live dogs of which 102 (46%) were healthy and 120 (54%) had at least one reported health condition, resulting in a total of 225 reported conditions with a median of 2 conditions/dog (min=1, max=5).

The median current age of all healthy dogs with a reported age (N=102) was 3 years and 7 months (min=3 months, max=13 years and 1 month). 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=112) was 5 years and 12 months (min=3 months, max=15 years). The median age at diagnosis for all disease occurrences with a reported age at diagnosis (N=212) was 2 years and 7 months (min= 1 month, max= 13 years and 10 months, Figure 4). Table 3 shows the disease conditions for the Italian Spinone breed. Age at diagnosis is presented for the most common disease conditions (Figure 5).

Table 2. Distribution of gender and neuter status for the 222 Italian Spinone breed with reported gender and neuter status.

Gender	Neuter status		Totals
	Intact	Neutered	
Female	56	60	116 (52%)
Male	81	25	106 (48%)
Totals	137 (62%)	85 (38%)	222 (100%)

Significantly more females were neutered (P<0.0001).

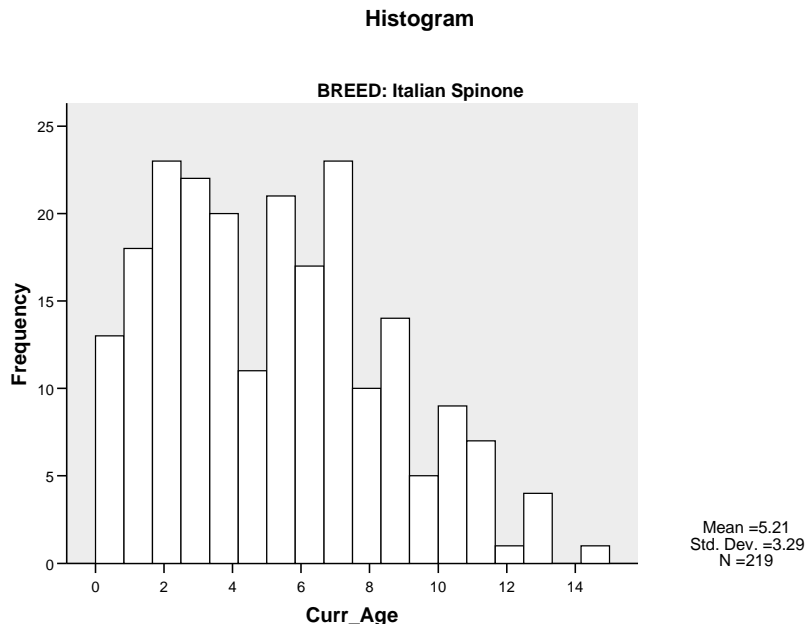


Figure 3. Histogram showing frequency of current age in years for the 219 live Italian Spinone breed with age reported.

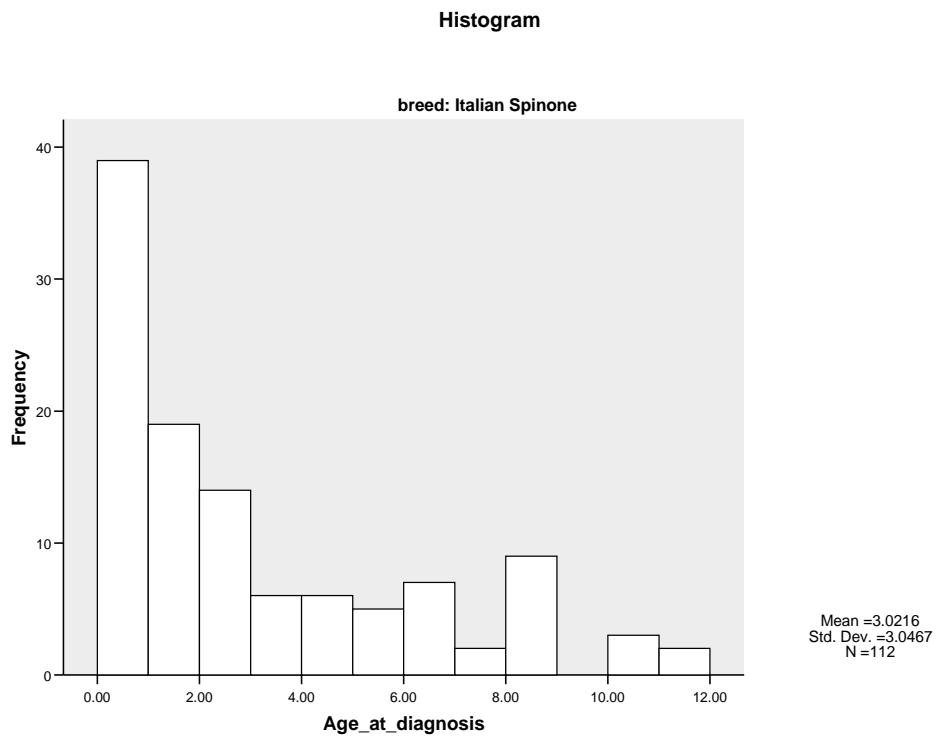


Figure 4. Histogram showing frequency of age at diagnosis for the 112 Italian Spinone breed with one or more disease conditions, using the youngest age at which a disease condition was first reported for those dogs with more than one disease condition or episode.

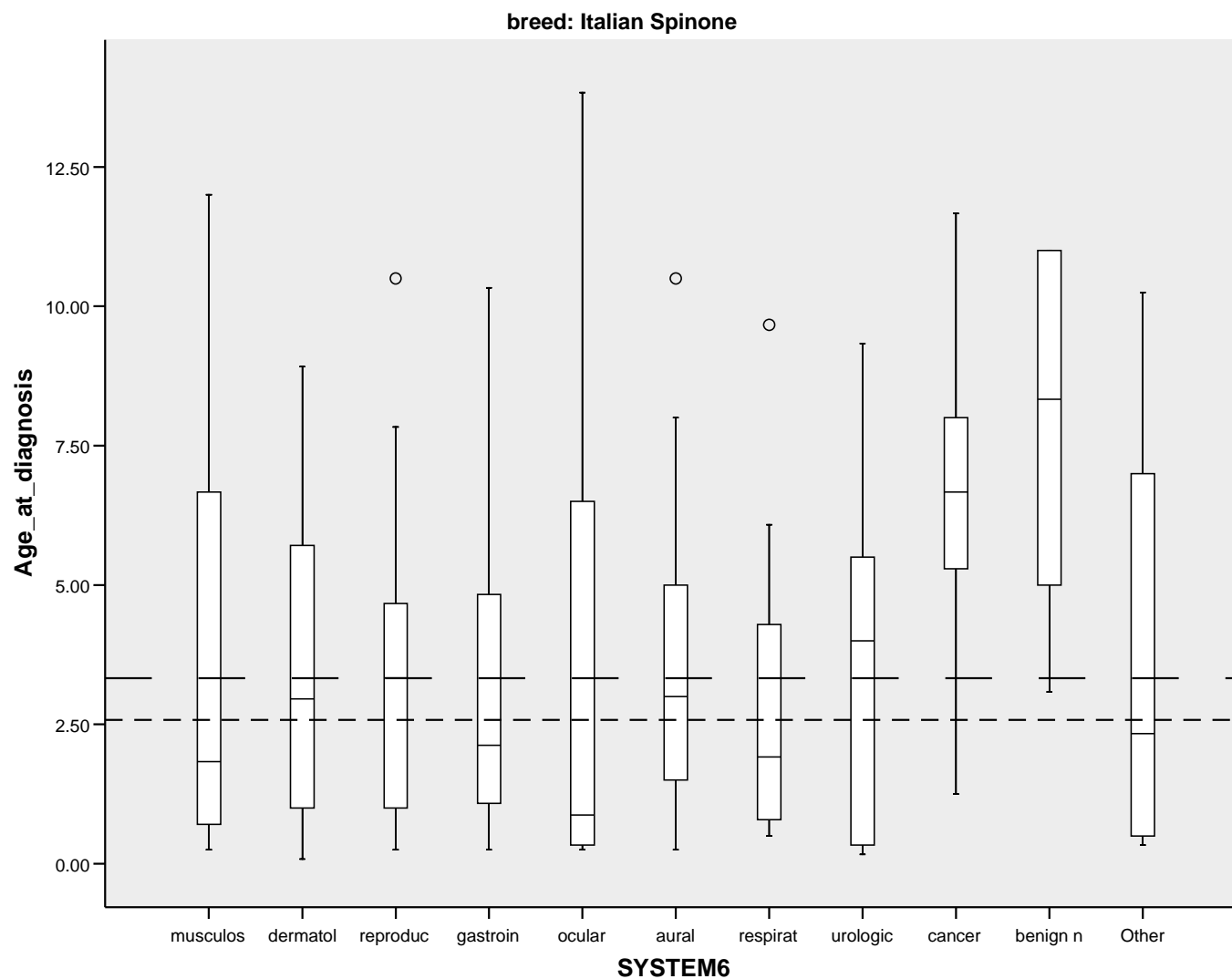


Figure 5. Box and whisker plot of age at diagnosis in years for the most common disease conditions in descending order for the Italian Spinone breed (N=112 dogs with 212 conditions with age reported). The dashed line (---) is the overall median age at diagnosis for all dogs in the survey and the dotted line (----) is the overall median age at diagnosis for the Italian Spinone breed. 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 the Italian Spinone breed.

Disease condition	All conditions		Most common specific conditions in descending order
	N	%	
1 Musculoskeletal	36	16.0	Arthritis; CHD; OCD (shoulder>unspecified); CLR; DJD
2 Dermatologic	28	12.4	Dermatitis; mites (sarcoptes>unspecified>demodex); pyotraumatic dermatitis
3 Reproductive	27	12.0	False pregnancy; pyometra; dystochia (uterine inertia>physical blockage)
4 Gastrointestinal	23	10.2	GDV; colitis; foreign body obstruction; haemorrhagic gastroenteritis; vomiting
5 Ocular	23	10.2	Entropion; ectropion; KCS; cherry eye; cataracts
6 Aural	17	7.6	Otitis externa; excessive ear wax; aural haematoma
7 Respiratory	16	7.1	Kennel cough
8 Immune mediated	14	6.2	Food allergy; gluten-sensitive enteropathy; flea allergy
9 Urologic	10	4.4	Cystitis; incontinence (unspecified>after spay)
10 Cancer	7	3.1	Unspecified; haemangiosarcoma (spleen); carcinoma (mammary); lymphoma
11 Benign neoplasia	6	2.7	Lipoma; histiocytoma (neck); unspecified (spleen)
12 Dental	4	1.8	Dental disease; retained puppy teeth
13 Endocrine	3	1.3	Hypothyroidism; Addisons disease
14 Neurologic	3	1.3	Seizures; IVDD (unspecified)
15 Cardiac	2	0.9	Heart murmur (unspecified)
16 Other	2	0.9	Uncodeable
17 Unknown	2	0.9	Undiagnosed illness
18 Anal gland	1	0.4	Anal sacculitis
19 Trauma	1	0.4	Musculoskeletal (hindlimb)
Total	225	100.0	