

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

Summary results of the  
Purebred Dog Health Survey  
for the Lancashire Heeler 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 Lancashire Heeler breed

A total of 208 forms were sent out and 66 were returned, representing 141 live dogs. This breed had a 31.7% response rate (66/208) and it represented 0.48% of all returns (66/13,741).

### Mortality data

A total of 30 deaths were reported and this represents 0.19% of all deaths reported in the survey (30/15,881). The median age at death for the Lancashire Heeler breed was 11 years and 9 months (min = 2 months, max = 21 years and 10 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 the Lancashire Heeler 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 Lancashire Heeler breed.

Cause of death	N	%	Most common specific causes in descending order
1 Cancer	8	26.7	Type unspecified
2 Old age	8	26.7	Old age
3 Trauma	4	13.3	Road traffic accident
4 Cardiac	2	6.7	Cardiomegaly; heart failure
5 Combinations	2	6.7	
6 Hepatic	2	6.7	Liver disease (unspecified); liver failure
7 Cerebral vascular	1	3.3	Stroke or cerebral vascular accident
8 Gastrointestinal	1	3.3	Gastroenteritis
9 Neurologic	1	3.3	Seizures
10 Urologic	1	3.3	Kidney problem (unspecified)
Total	30	100.0	

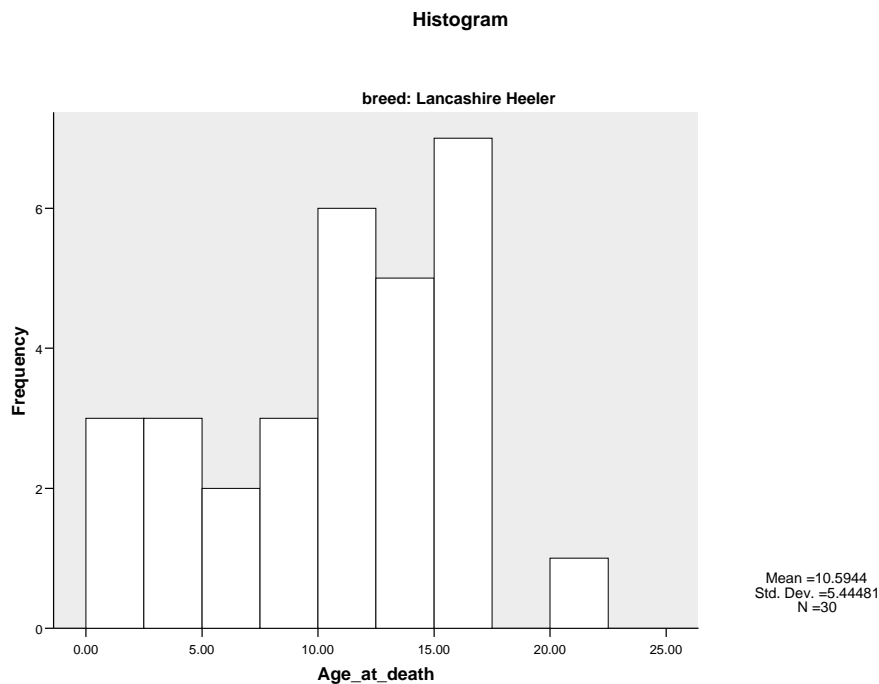


Figure 1. Histogram showing the frequency (as number of dogs) of age at death (in years) for the 30 Lancashire Heeler deaths with age at death reported.

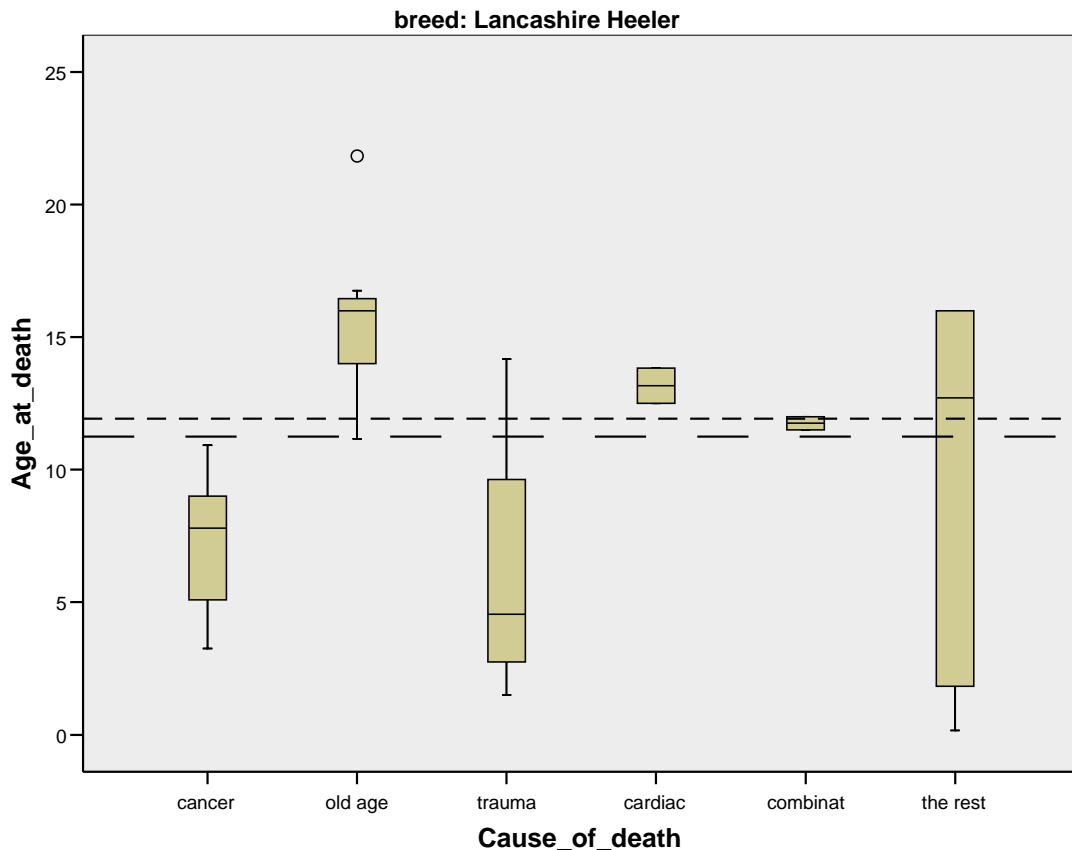


Figure 2. Box and whisker plot of age at death in years for the most common causes of death in the Lancashire Heeler breed (N=30). The dashed line (---) is the overall median age at death for all dogs in the survey and the dotted line (----) is the overall median age of death for the Lancashire Heeler 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 141 live dogs with a reported age was 4 years and 6 months (min=4 months, max=15 years, Figure 3). Health information was reported for 141 live dogs of which 103 (73%) were healthy and 38 (27%) had at least one reported health condition, resulting in a total of 59 reported conditions with a median of 1 condition/dog (min=1, max=5).

The median current age of all healthy dogs with a reported age (N=103) was 3 years and 8 months (min=4 months, max=13 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=37) was 6 years and 6 months (min=4 months, max=15 years). The median age at diagnosis for all disease occurrences with a reported age at diagnosis (N=55) was 3 years and 11 months (min= 5 months, max= 11 years and 6 months, Figure 4). Table 3 shows the disease conditions for the Lancashire Heeler breed. Age at diagnosis is presented for the most common disease conditions (Figure 5).

Table 2. Distribution of gender and neuter status for the 139 Lancashire Heeler breed with reported gender and neuter status.

Gender	Neuter status		Totals
	Intact	Neutered	
Female	49	25	74 (53%)
Male	46	19	65 (47%)
Totals	95 (68%)	44 (32%)	139 (100%)

There was no association between gender and neuter status (P=0.5647).

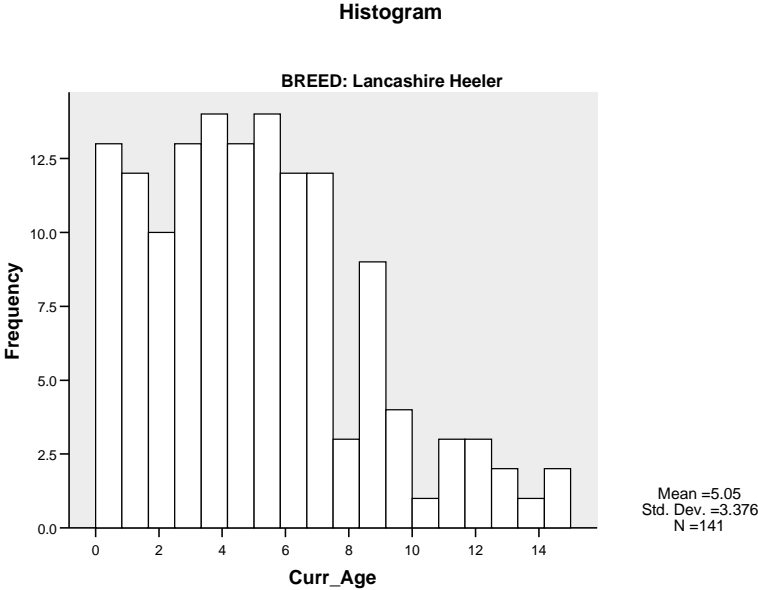


Figure 3. Histogram showing frequency of current age in years for the 141 live Lancashire Heeler breed with age reported.

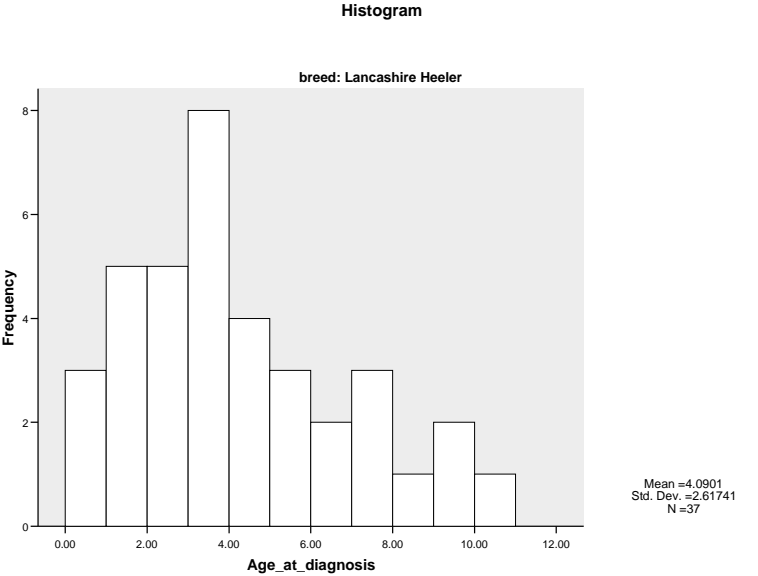


Figure 4. Histogram showing frequency of age at diagnosis for the 37 Lancashire Heeler breed with one or more disease conditions, using the youngest age at which a disease condition was first reported for those dogs with more than one disease condition or episode.

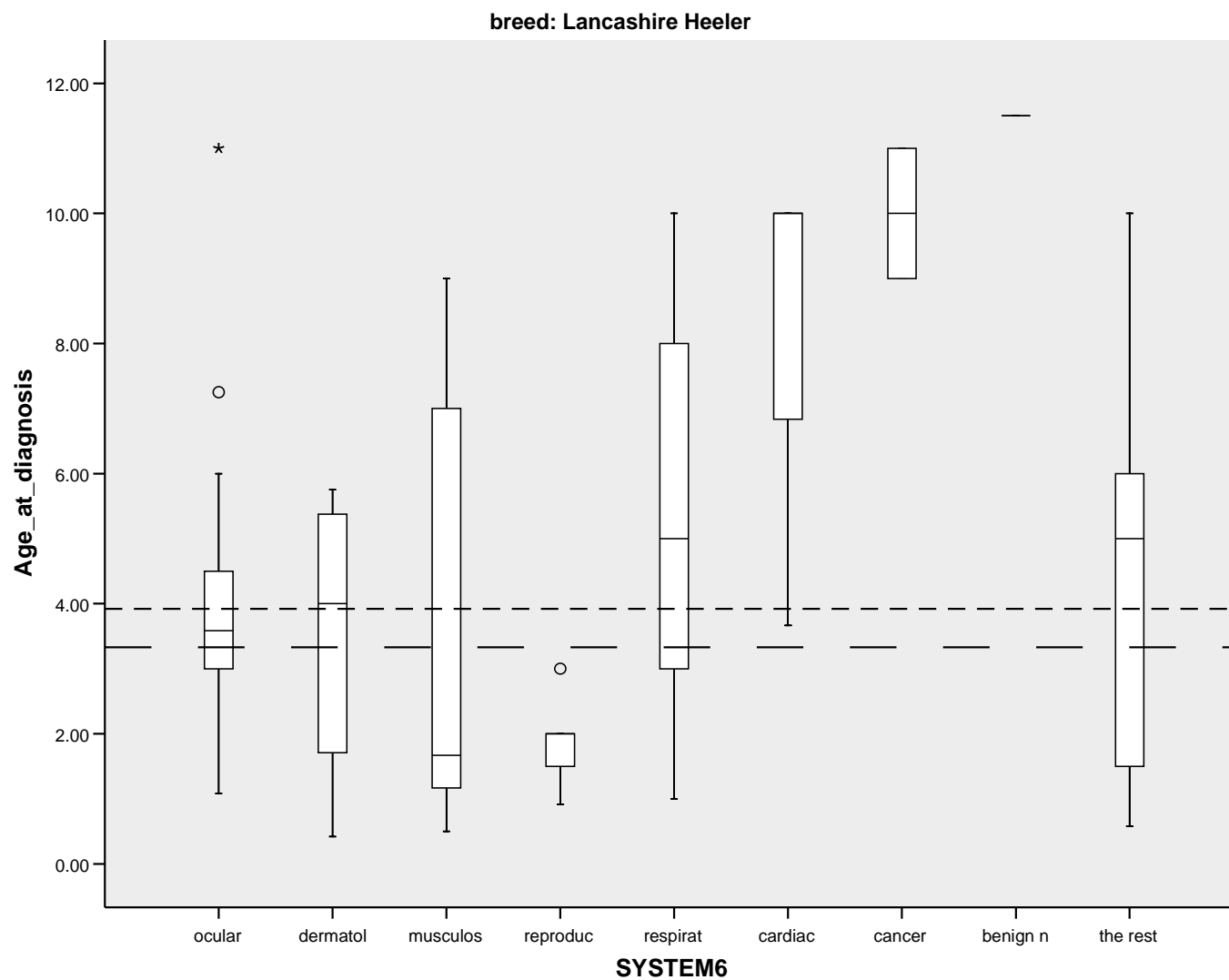


Figure 5. Box and whisker plot of age at diagnosis in years for the most common disease conditions in descending order for the Lancashire Heeler breed (N=37 dogs with 55 conditions with age reported). The dashed line (---) is the overall median age at diagnosis for all dogs in the survey and the dotted line (----) is the overall median age at diagnosis for the Lancashire Heeler 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 Lancashire Heeler breed.

Disease condition	All conditions		Most common specific conditions in descending order
	N	%	
1 Ocular	19	32.2	Lens luxation; cataracts; persistent pupillary membrane (PPM); conjunctivitis; unspecified; red eye
2 Dermatologic	6	10.2	Dermatitis; mites (sarcoptes); recurrent pyoderma; other (unspecified)
3 Musculoskeletal	6	10.2	Arthritis; elbow dysplasia; hip dysplasia (CHD); brachygnathism
4 Reproductive	6	10.2	Cryptorchid; inability to breed; dystochia (uterine inertia); irregular heat cycles
5 Respiratory	5	8.5	Kennel cough; snoring
6 Cardiac	3	5.1	Heart murmur (unspecified); coughing
7 Cancer	2	3.4	Unspecified
8 Gastrointestinal	2	3.4	Colitis
9 Aural	1	1.7	Otitis interna
10 Benign neoplasia	1	1.7	Lipoma
11 Dental	1	1.7	Retained puppy teeth
12 Endocrine	1	1.7	Unspecified
13 Immune mediated	1	1.7	Flea allergy
14 Neurologic	1	1.7	Seizures
15 Trauma	1	1.7	Urologic
16 Other	1	1.7	Uncodeable
17 Unknown	1	1.7	Undiagnosed illness
18 Urologic	1	1.7	Uroliths (unspecified)
Total	59	100.0	