

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

Summary results of the  
Purebred Dog Health Survey  
for the Lhasa Apso 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 Lhasa Apso breed

A total of 225 forms were sent out and 52 were returned, representing 243 live dogs. This breed had a 23.1% response rate (52/225) and it represented 0.38% of all returns (52/13,741).

### Mortality data

A total of 84 deaths were reported and this represents 0.53% of all deaths reported in the survey (84/15,881). The median age at death for the Lhasa Apso breed was 14 years and 4 months (min = 1 year, max = 18 years and 5 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 Lhasa Apso 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 Lhasa Apso breed.

Cause of death	N	%	Most common specific causes in descending order
1 Old age	27	32.1	Old age & age combinations
2 Cancer	15	17.9	Type unspecified (liver, unspecified); brain tumour
3 Urologic	6	7.1	Chronic kidney failure
4 Cerebral vascular	5	6.0	Stroke or cerebral vascular accident
5 Senility	5	6.0	
6 Combinations	4	4.8	
7 Cardiac	3	3.6	Heart attack; heart failure; cardiomegaly
8 Hepatic	3	3.6	Liver failure (chronic > acute)
9 Gastrointestinal	2	2.4	Haemorrhagic gastroenteritis; unspecified
10 Musculoskeletal	2	2.4	Fractured jaw
11 Neurologic	2	2.4	Seizures
12 Perioperative	2	2.4	
13 Trauma	2	2.4	Road traffic accident; unspecified
14 Collapse	1	1.2	
15 Drowning	1	1.2	
16 Endocrine	1	1.2	Cushings disease
17 Poisoning	1	1.2	
18 Systemic	1	1.2	Allergy to insect bite or sting or snake bite
19 Unknown	1	1.2	
Total	84	100.0	

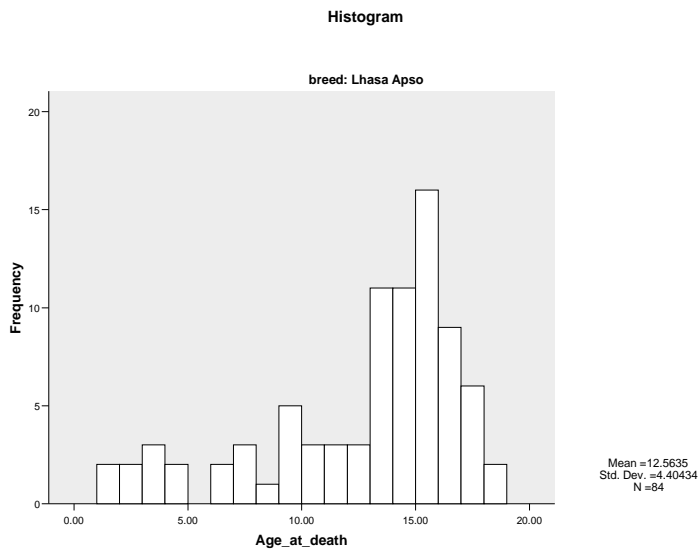


Figure 1. Histogram showing the frequency (as number of dogs) of age at death (in years) for the 84 Lhasa Apso deaths with age at death reported.

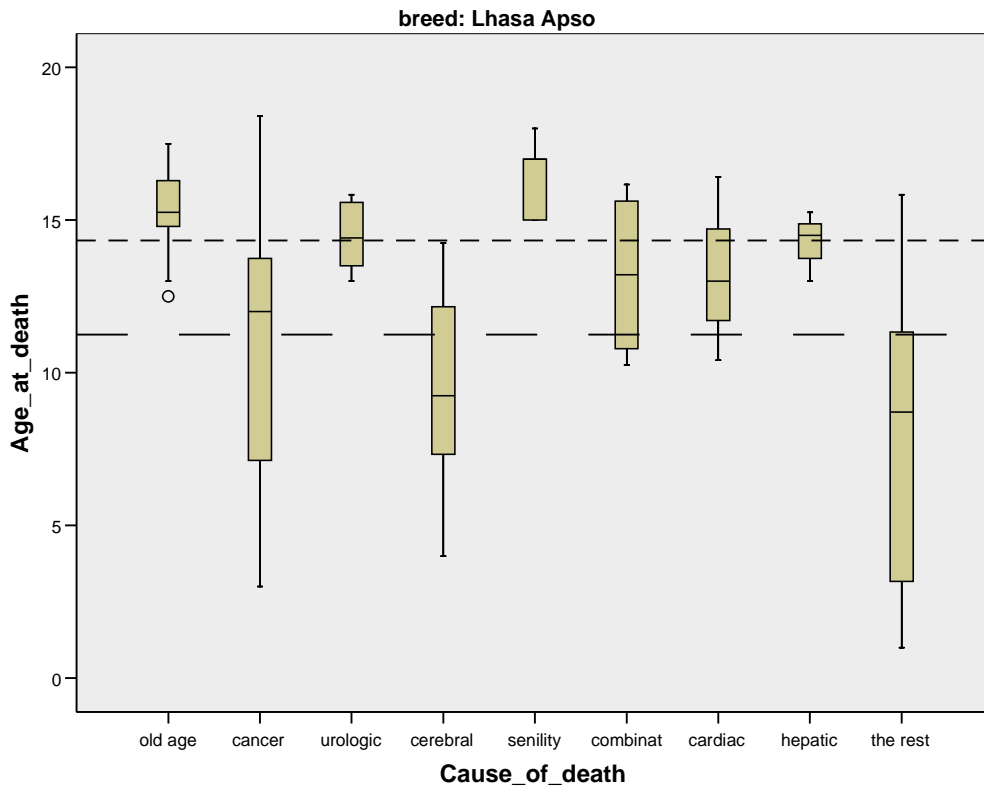


Figure 2. Box and whisker plot of age at death in years for the most common causes of death in the Lhasa Apso breed (N=84). The dashed line (---) is the overall median age at death for all dogs in the survey and the dotted line (----) is the overall median age of death for the Lhasa Apso breed. The solid line within each grey box represents the median age at death from the condition.

**Morbidity data**

The median current age of the 243 live dogs with a reported age was 5 years (min=2 months, max=17 years and 7 months, Figure 3). Health information was reported for 243 live dogs of which 167 (69%) were healthy and 76 (31%) had at least one reported health condition, resulting in a total of 117 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=167) was 4 years (min=2 months, max=17 years and 7 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=68) was 7 years and 9 months (min=5 months, max=17 years and 5 months). The median age at diagnosis for all disease occurrences with a reported age at diagnosis (N=107) was 5 years and 2 months (min= 3 months, max= 14 years and 1 month, Figure 4). Table 3 shows the disease conditions for the Lhasa Apso breed. Age at diagnosis is presented for the most common disease conditions (Figure 5).

Table 2. Distribution of gender and neuter status for the 239 Lhasa Apso breed with reported gender and neuter status.

Gender	Neuter status		Totals
	Intact	Neutered	
Female	115	44	159 (67%)
Male	65	15	80 (33%)
Totals	180 (75%)	59 (25%)	239 (100%)

There was no association between gender and neuter status (P=0.1311).

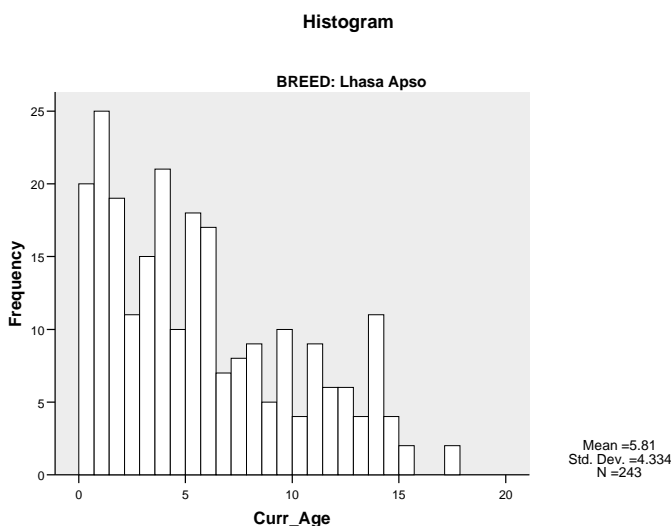


Figure 3. Histogram showing frequency of current age in years for the 243 live Lhasa Apso breed with age reported.

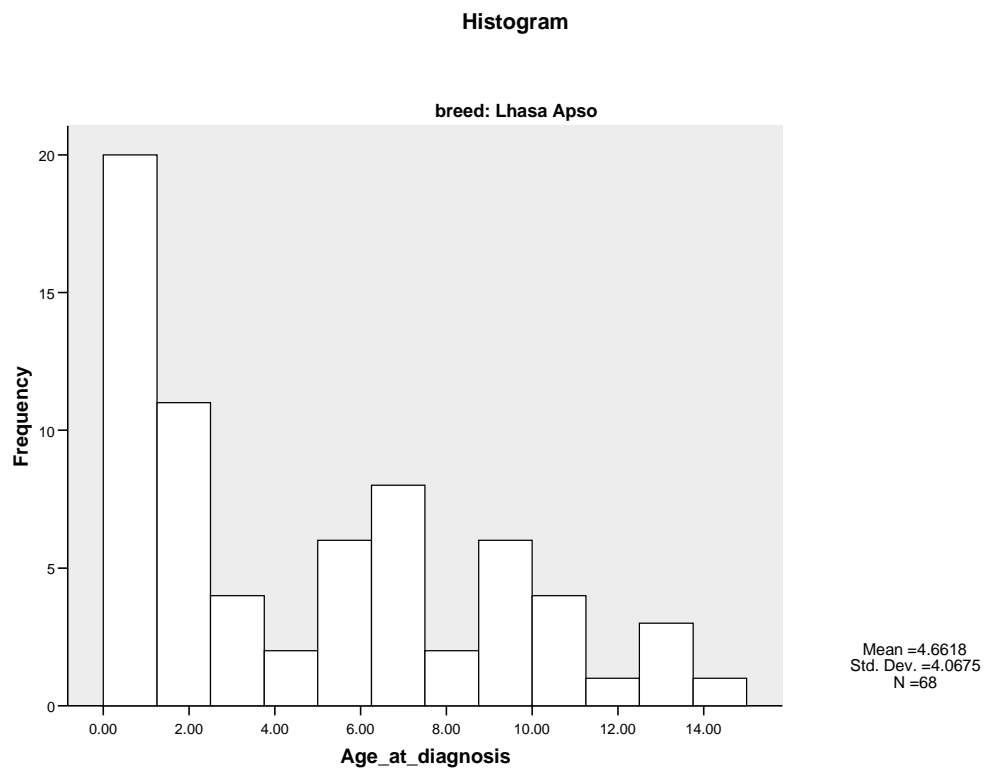


Figure 4. Histogram showing frequency of age at diagnosis for the 68 Lhasa Apso breed with one or more disease conditions, using the youngest age at which a disease condition was first reported for those dogs with more than one disease condition or episode.

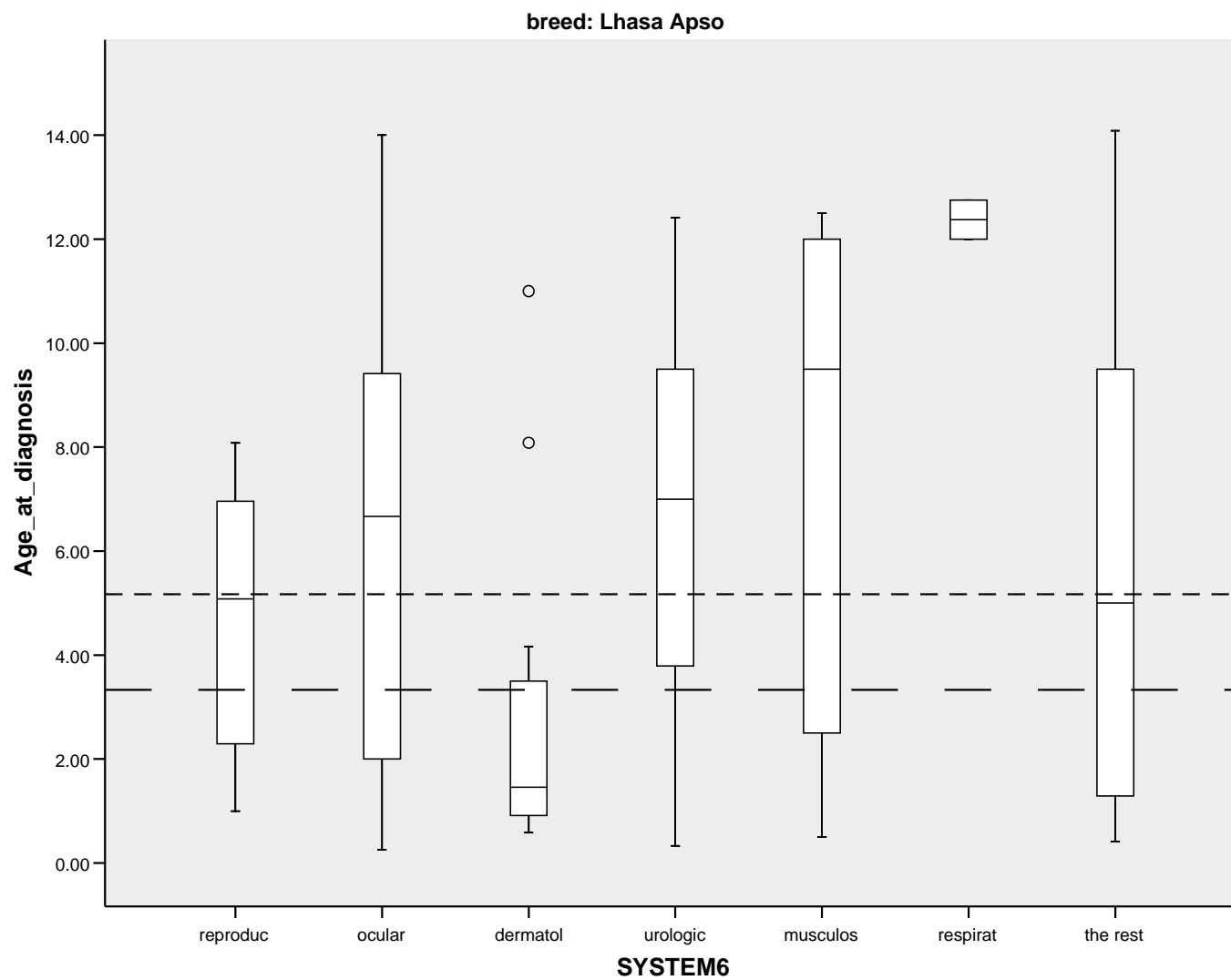


Figure 5. Box and whisker plot of age at diagnosis in years for the most common disease conditions in descending order for the Lhasa Apso breed (N=68 dogs with 107 conditions with age reported). The dashed line (---) is the overall median age at diagnosis for all dogs in the survey and the dotted line (----) is the overall median age at diagnosis for the Lhasa Apso 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 Lhasa Apso breed.

Disease condition	All conditions		Most common specific conditions in descending order
	N	%	
1 Reproductive	23	19.7	Pyometra; dystochia (uterine inertia>physical blockage); metritis; irregular heat cycles
2 Ocular	20	17.1	Cherry eye; cataracts; corneal ulcer
3 Dermatologic	18	15.4	Fading nose pigment; mites (cheyletiella); dermatitis; sebaceous adenitis
4 Urologic	11	9.4	Cystouroliths (unspecified>struvite); cystitis; haematuria
5 Musculoskeletal	10	8.5	Arthritis (carpus; forelimb; legs); CHD; stiff joints; CLR; brachygnathism; prognathism
6 Dental	8	6.8	Retained puppy teeth; dental disease
7 Endocrine	3	2.6	Addison's disease; diabetes mellitus
8 Gastrointestinal	3	2.6	Colitis; foreign body obstruction; megaoesophagus
9 Immune mediated	3	2.6	Flea allergy; gluten-sensitive enteropathy
10 Neurologic	3	2.6	IVDD (unspecified; thoracic); seizures
11 Trauma	3	2.6	Hind limb; spine
12 Benign neoplasia	2	1.7	Lipoma
13 Cancer	2	1.7	Lymphoma; mast cell tumour (MCT) (skin)
14 Respiratory	2	1.7	Bronchitis; noisy breathing
15 Aural	1	0.9	Otitis externa
16 Behaviour	1	0.9	Unspecified
17 Cardiac	1	0.9	Heart murmur (without clinical signs)
18 Cardiopulmonary	1	0.9	Coughing
19 Cerebrovascular	1	0.9	Stroke or cerebral vascular accident
20 Other	1	0.9	Uncodeable
Total	117	100.0	