

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

Summary results of the  
Purebred Dog Health Survey  
for the Lowchen 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 Lowchen breed

A total of 75 forms were sent out and 12 were returned, representing 62 live dogs. This breed had a 16.0% response rate (12/75) and it represented 0.09% of all returns (12/13,741).

### Mortality data

A total of 9 deaths were reported and this represents 0.06% of all deaths reported in the survey (9/15,881). The median age at death for the Lowchen breed was 10 years (min = 1 year and 1 month, max = 16 years and 6 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 the Lowchen 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 Lowchen breed.

Cause of death	N	%	Most common specific causes in descending order
1 Cardiac	2	22.2	Cardiomegaly; defect (unspecified)
2 Old age	2	22.2	Old age & age combinations
3 Behaviour	1	11.1	Aggression
4 Combinations	1	11.1	Multiple organ failure
5 Gastrointestinal	1	11.1	Unspecified
6 Perioperative	1	11.1	
7 Reproductive	1	11.1	Pyometra
Total	9	100.0	

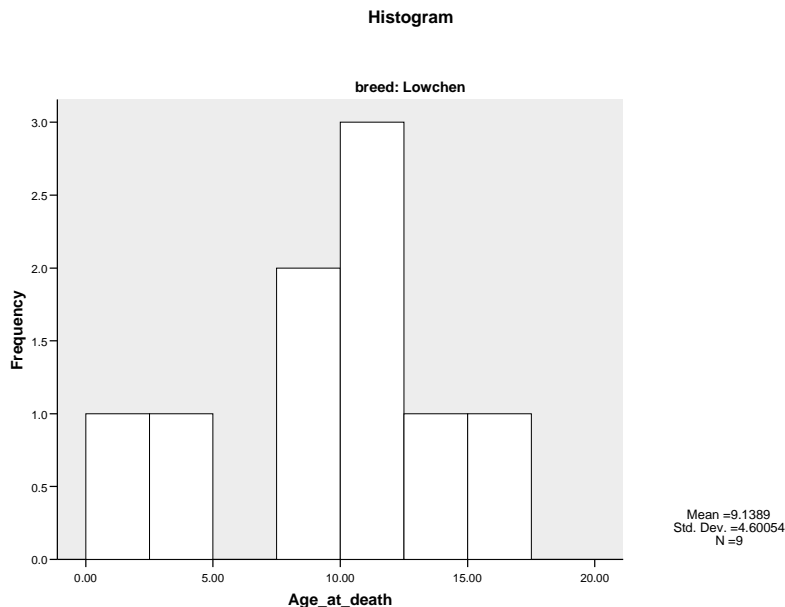


Figure 1. Histogram showing the frequency (as number of dogs) of age at death (in years) for the 9 Lowchen deaths with age at death reported.

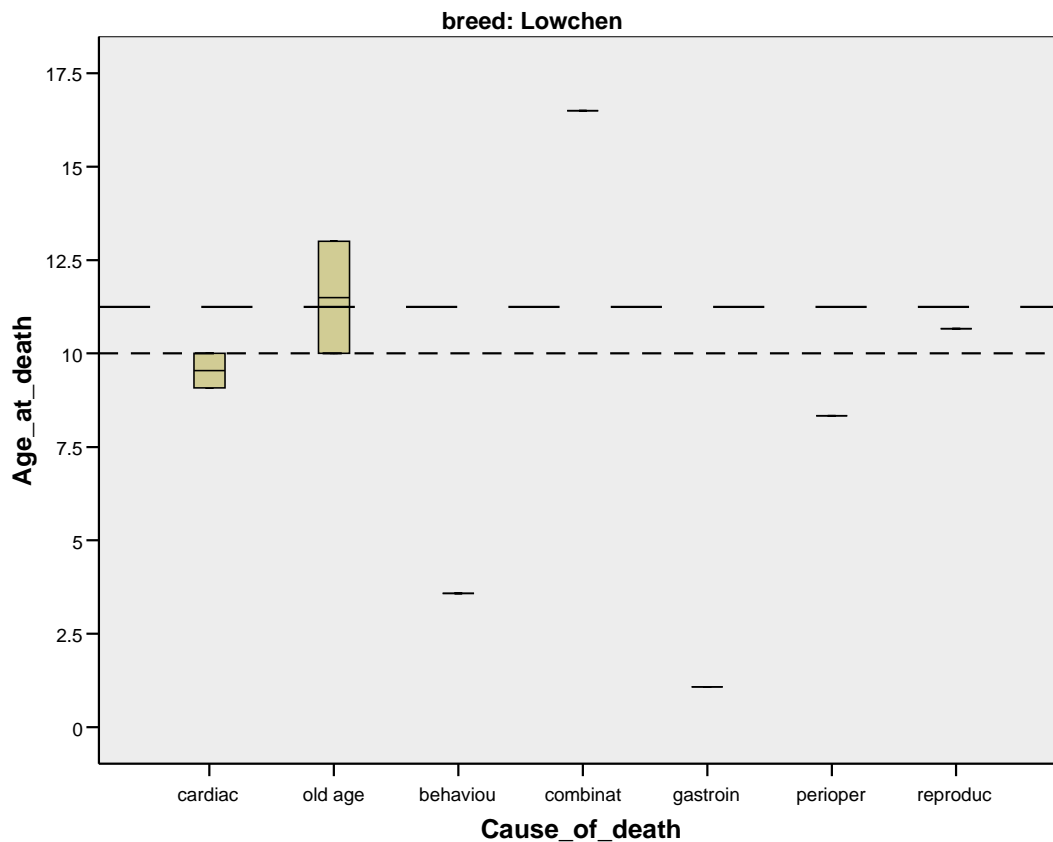


Figure 2. Box and whisker plot of age at death in years for the most common causes of death in the Lowchen breed (N=9). The dashed line (---) is the overall median age at death for all dogs in the survey and the dotted line (----) is the overall median age of death for the Lowchen breed. The solid line within each grey box represents the median age at death from the condition.

### Morbidity data

The median current age of the 62 live dogs with a reported age was 3 years (min=3 months, max=15 years and 10 months, Figure 3). Health information was reported for 62 live dogs of which 42 (68%) were healthy and 20 (32%) had at least one reported health condition, resulting in a total of 30 reported conditions with a median of 1 condition/dog (min=1, max=3).

The median current age of all healthy dogs with a reported age (N=42) was 1 year and 11 months (min=3 months, max=12 years and 8 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=16) was 6 years and 3 months (min=1 year and 2 months, max=15 years and 10 months). The median age at diagnosis for all disease occurrences with a reported age at diagnosis (N=26) was 3 years and 8 months (min= 2 months, max= 14 years and 6 months, Figure 4). Table 3 shows the disease conditions for the Lowchen breed. Age at diagnosis is presented for the most common disease conditions (Figure 5).

Table 2. Distribution of gender and neuter status for the 62 Lowchen breed with reported gender and neuter status.

Gender	Neuter status		Totals
	Intact	Neutered	
Female	36	10	46 (74%)
Male	16	0	16 (26%)
Totals	52 (84%)	10 (16%)	62 (100%)

Significantly more females were neutered ( $P=0.0417$ ).

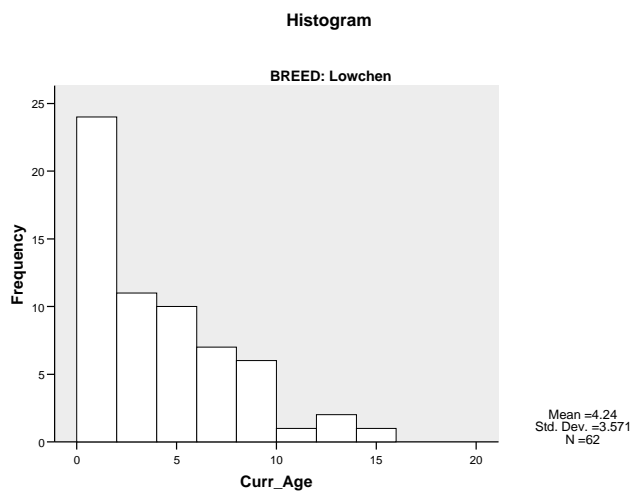


Figure 3. Histogram showing frequency of current age in years for the 62 live the Lowchen breed with age reported.

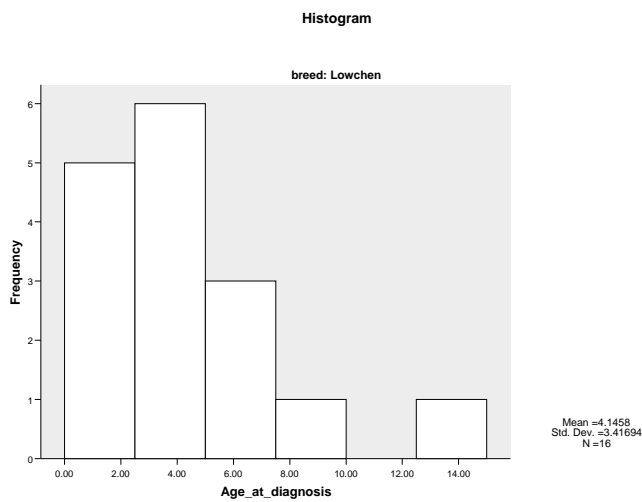


Figure 4. Histogram showing frequency of age at diagnosis for the 16 Lowchen breed with one or more disease conditions, using the youngest age at which a disease condition was first reported for those dogs with more than one disease condition or episode.

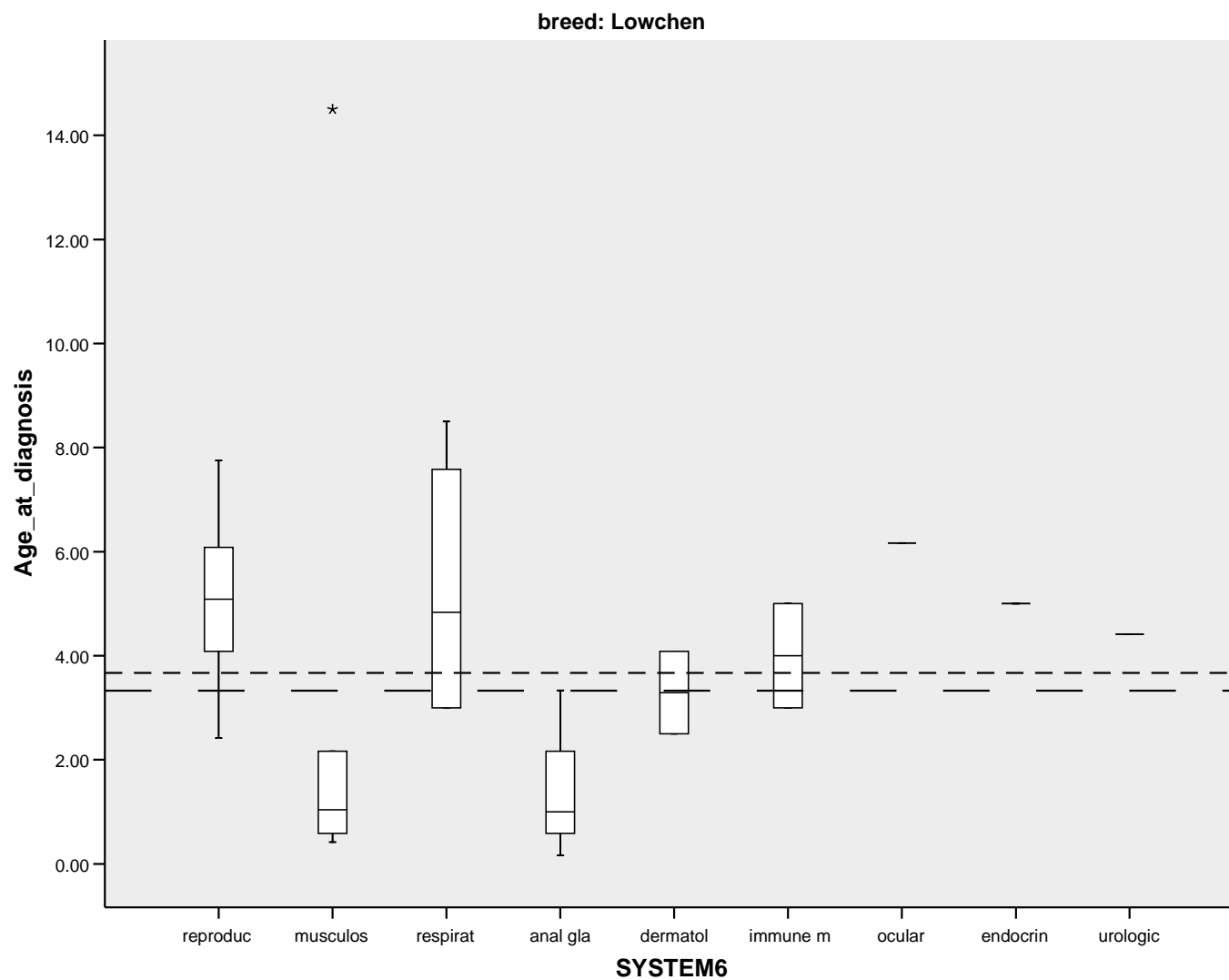


Figure 5. Box and whisker plot of age at diagnosis in years for the most common disease conditions in descending order for the Lowchen breed (N=16 dogs with 26 conditions with age reported). The dashed line (---) is the overall median age at diagnosis for all dogs in the survey and the dotted line (----) is the overall median age at diagnosis for the Lowchen 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 Lowchen breed.

Disease condition	All conditions		Most common specific conditions in descending order
	N	%	
1 Reproductive	8	26.7	Infertility; pyometra; agalactia; mastitis; spontaneous abortion; vaginitis
2 Musculoskeletal	6	20.0	Patellar luxation; avascular necrosis FH; bone malformation (unspecified)
3 Respiratory	4	13.3	Kennel cough; coughing; other (unspecified)
4 Anal gland	3	10.0	Anal sacculitis
5 Dermatologic	3	10.0	Alopecia; fading nose pigment
6 Immune mediated	2	6.7	Flea allergy; gluten-sensitive enteropathy
7 Ocular	2	6.7	Cataracts; corneal ulcer
8 Endocrine	1	3.3	Cushing's disease
9 Urologic	1	3.3	Cystouroliths (struvite)
Total	30	100.0	

Avascular necrosis FH=femoral head or Legg Calve Perthes disease