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

Summary results of the
Purebred Dog Health Survey
for Old English Sheepdogs

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%.

Old English Sheepdogs

A total of 66 forms were sent out and 32 were returned, representing 97 live dogs. This breed had a 48.5% response rate (32/66) and it represented 0.23% of all returns (32/13,741).

Mortality data
A total of 65 deaths were reported and this represents 0.41% of all deaths reported in the survey (65/15,881). The median age at death for Old English Sheepdogs was 10 years and 9 months (min = 1 year and 4 months, max = 15 years and 1 month) and this was lower than the overall median of 11 years and 3 months (Figure 1). Table 1 shows the causes of death for Old English Sheepdogs. Age at death is presented for the most common causes of death (Figure 2).

Table 1. Causes of death by organ system/category for Old English Sheepdogs.

	Cause of death	N	%	Most common specific causes in descending order
1	Cancer	17	26.2	Type unspecified (mammary, stomach, throat)
2	Old age	14	21.5	Old age & age combinations
3	Cardiac	6	9.2	Heart defect unspecified; congenital heart defect unspec
4	Urologic	6	9.2	Kidney failure
5	Gastrointestinal	5	7.7	Gastric dilatation/volvulus (GDV)
6	Trauma	4	6.2	Spinal injury; road traffic accident; attacked by dog
7	Cerebral vascular	2	3.1	Stroke or cerebral vascular accident
8	Other	2	3.1	Uncodeable
9	Unknown	2	3.1	Undiagnosed illness
10	Behaviour	1	1.5	Aggression
11	Combinations	1	1.5	
12	Endocrine	1	1.5	Hypothyroidism
13	Internal bleeding	1	1.5	
14	Musculoskeletal	1	1.5	Arthritis
15	Neurologic	1	1.5	Seizures
16	Sudden death	1	1.5	
	Total	65	100.0	

breed: Old English Sheepdog
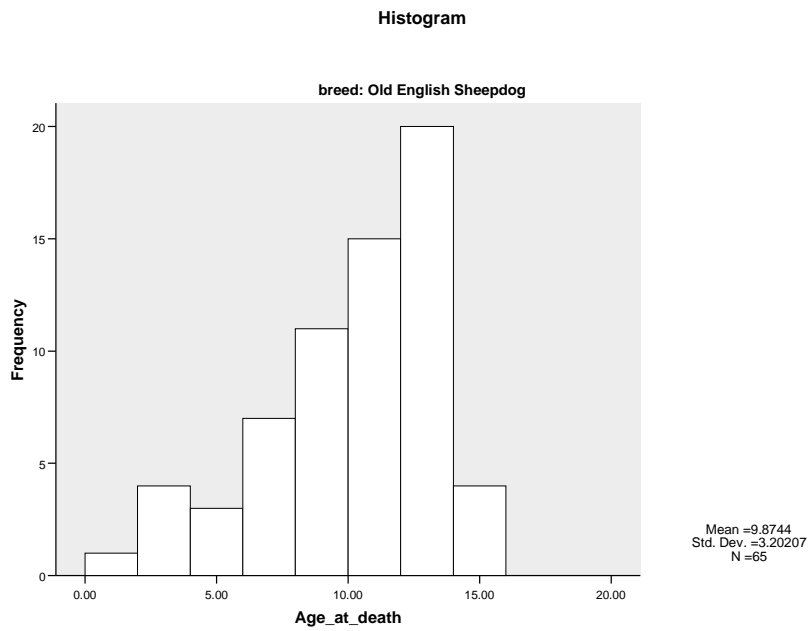
Mean =9.8744
Std. Dev. =3.20207
N =65

Figure 1. Histogram showing the frequency (as number of dogs) of age at death (in years) for the 65 Old English Sheepdog deaths with age at death reported.
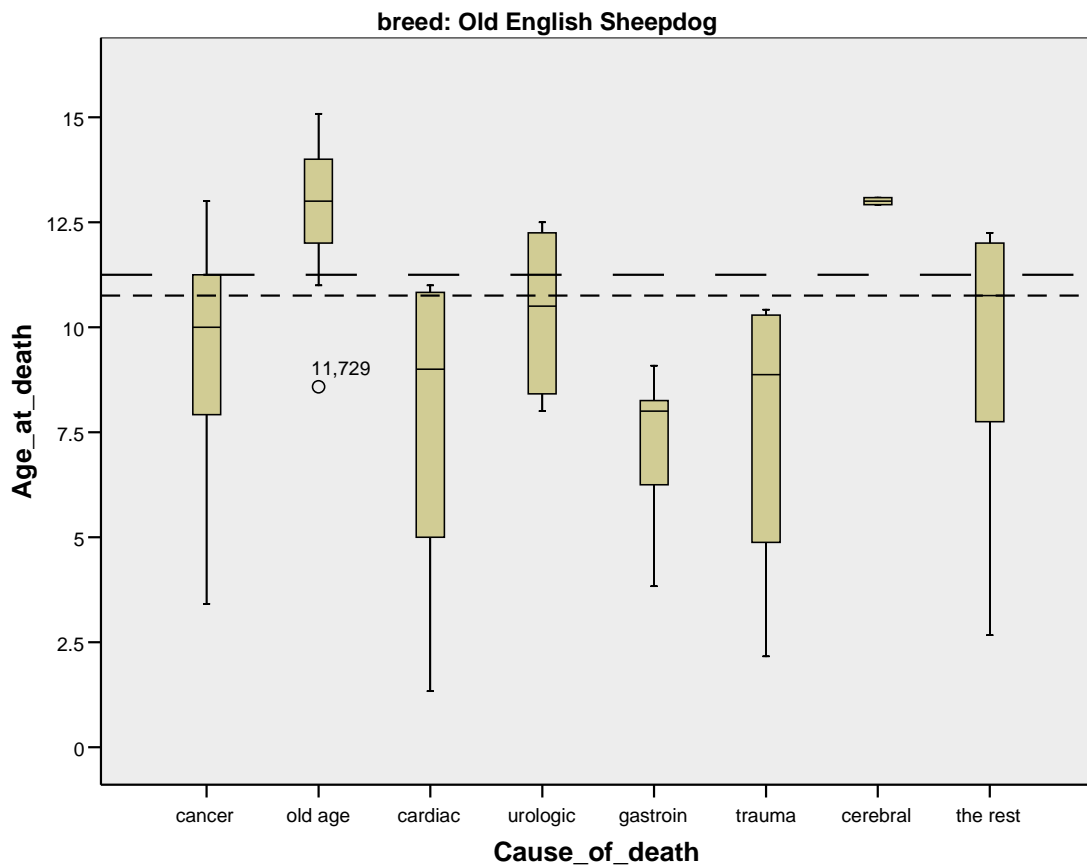

breed: Old English Sheepdog

Figure 2. Box and whisker plot of age at death in years for the most common causes of death in Old English Sheepdogs (N=65). 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 Old English Sheepdogs. The solid line within each grey box represents the median age at death from the condition.

Morbidity data

The median current age of the 96 live dogs with a reported age was 5 years and 3 months (min=3 months, max=12 years and 4 months, Figure 3). Health information was reported for 97 live dogs of which 63 (65%) were healthy and 34 (35%) had at least one reported health condition, resulting in a total of 62 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=63) was 4 years and 12 months (min=3 months, max=10 years and 6 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=33) was 7 years and 7 months (min=1 year and 1 month, max=12 years and 4 months). The median age at diagnosis for all disease occurrences with a reported age at diagnosis (N=61) was 3 years and 1 month (min= 5 months, max= 10 years and 11 months, Figure 4). Table 3 shows the disease conditions for Old English Sheepdogs. Age at diagnosis is presented for the most common disease conditions (Figure 5).

Table 2. Distribution of gender and neuter status for 97 Old English Sheepdogs with reported gender and neuter status.

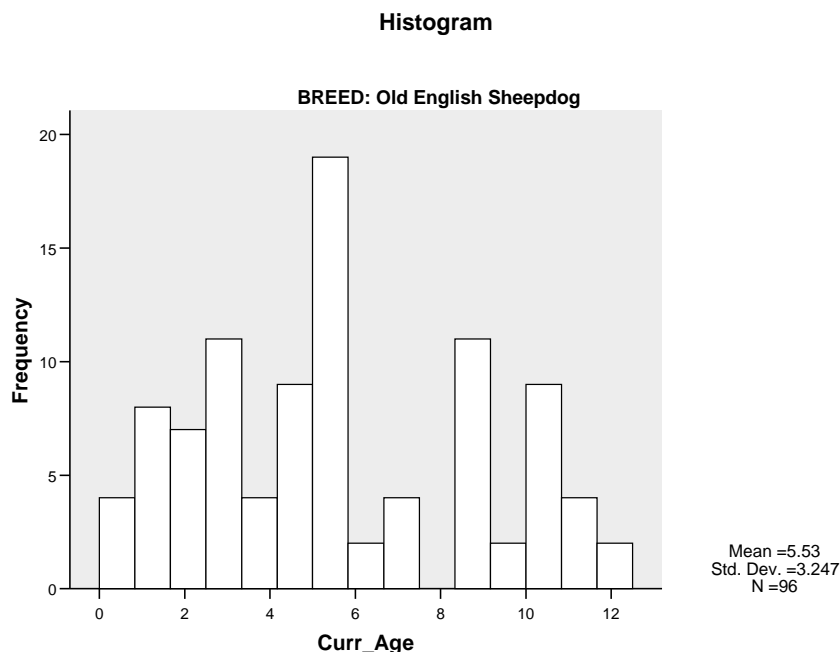| | Neuter status | | |
Gender	Intact	Neutered	Totals
Female	45	20	65 (67%)
Male	31	1	32 (33%)
Totals	76 (78%)	21 (22%)	97 (100%)

Significantly more females were neutered (P=0.0019).

Histogram

Figure 3. Histogram showing frequency of current age in years for the 96 live Old English Sheepdogs with age reported.

Histogram
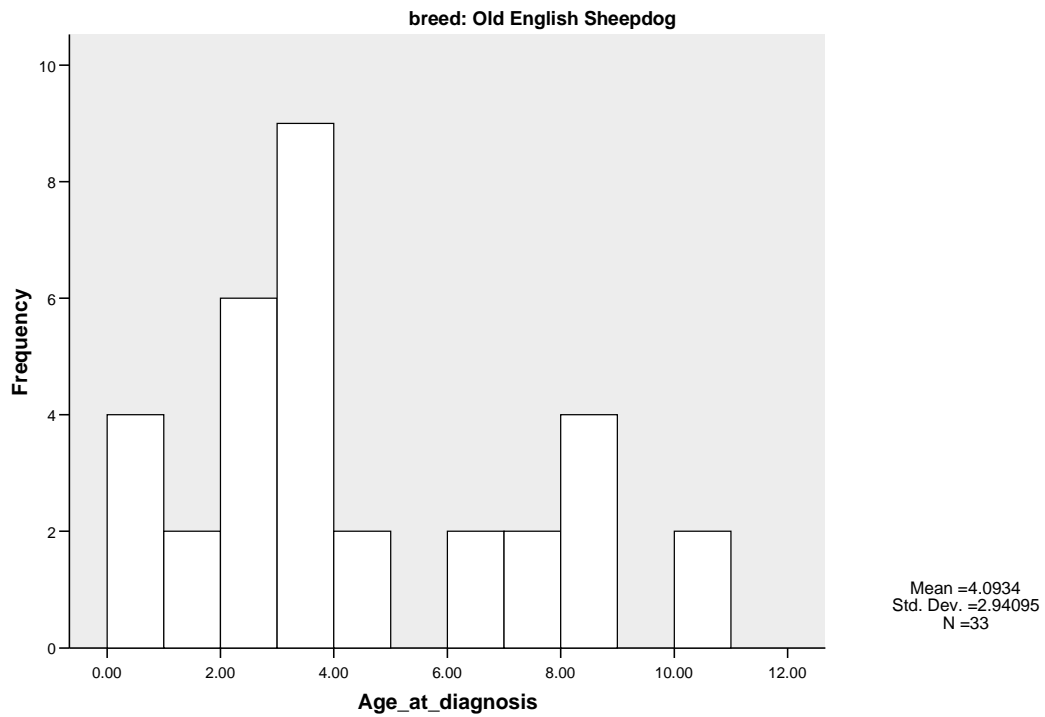
breed: Old English Sheepdog

Figure 4. Histogram showing frequency of age at diagnosis for the 33 Old English Sheepdogs 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.
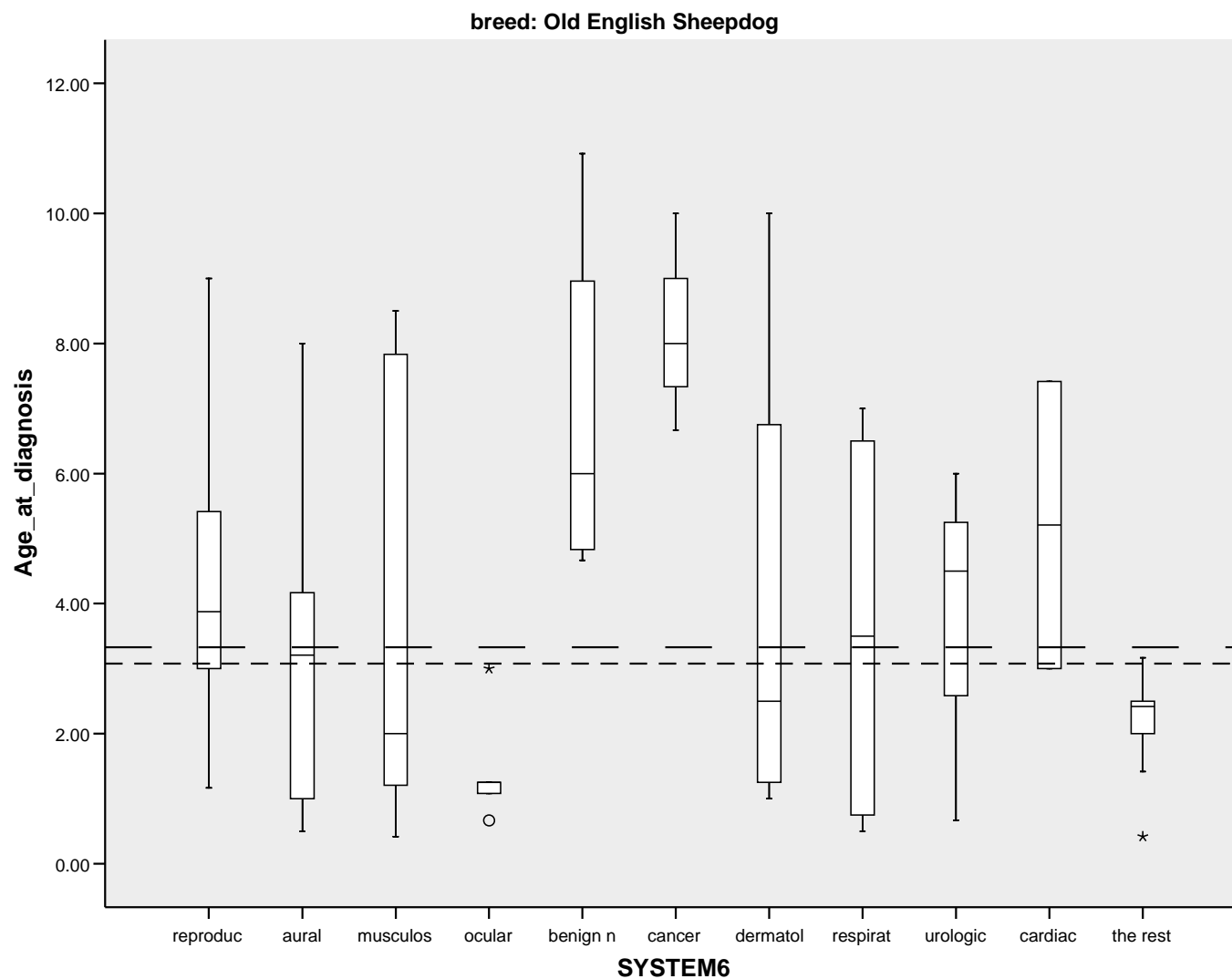
Figure 5. Box and whisker plot of age at diagnosis in years for the most common disease conditions in descending order for Old English Sheepdogs (N=33 dogs with 61 conditions with age reported). The dashed line (– – –) is the overall median age at diagnosis for all dogs in the survey and the dotted line (----) is the overall median age at diagnosis for Old English Sheepdogs. 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 Old English Sheepdogs.

Disease condition	All conditions		Most common specific conditions in descending order
	N	%	
1 Reproductive	12	19.4	Infertility; irregular heat cycles; pyometra; dystochia (physical blockage=uterine inertia)
2 Aural	7	11.3	Otitis externa; excessive ear wax
3 Musculoskeletal	7	11.3	CHD; stiff joints; arthritis (hindlimb); prognathism
4 Ocular	5	8.1	Cataracts; congenital cataracts; entropion; other (unspecified)
5 Benign neoplasia	4	6.5	Lipoma
6 Cancer	4	6.5	Type unspecified (mammary>skin)
7 Dermatologic	4	6.5	Anal furunculosis; fading nose pigment; mites (sarcoptes); dermatitis
8 Respiratory	4	6.5	Kennel cough; rhinitis
9 Immune mediated	3	4.8	Atopy; food allergy
10 Urologic	3	4.8	Cystouroliths (struvite); incontinence (unspecified)
11 Cardiac	2	3.2	Heart murmur (grade 3); arrhythmia
12 Gastrointestinal	2	3.2	Colitis; pancreatitis
13 Unknown	2	3.2	Undiagnosed illness
14 Haematopoietic	1	1.6	Anaemia unspecified
15 Trauma	1	1.6	Dermatologic
16 Other	1	1.6	Uncodeable
Total	62	100.0	