

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

Summary results of the
Purebred Dog Health Survey
for Polish Lowland 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%.

Polish Lowland Sheepdogs

A total of 134 forms were sent out and 21 were returned, representing 45 live dogs. This breed had a 15.7% response rate (21/134) and it represented 0.15% of all returns (21/13,741).

Mortality data

A total of 11 deaths were reported and this represents 0.07% of all deaths reported in the survey (11/15,881). The median age at death for Polish Lowland Sheepdogs was 9 years and 7 months (min = 2 years and 10 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 Polish Lowland 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 Polish Lowland Sheepdogs.

Cause of death	N	%	Most common specific causes in descending order
1 Cancer	7	63.6	Type unspecified
2 Cardiac	1	9.1	Heart disease unspecified
3 Endocrine	1	9.1	Diabetes mellitus
4 Other	1	9.1	Uncodeable
5 Trauma	1	9.1	Unspecified
Total	11	100.0	

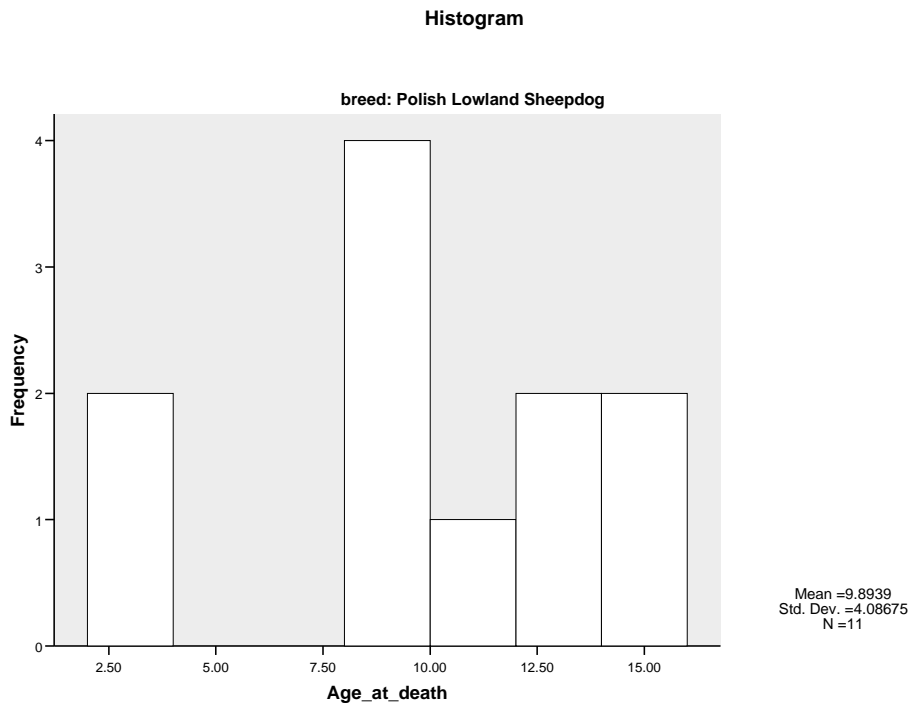


Figure 1. Histogram showing the frequency (as number of dogs) of age at death (in years) for the 11 Polish Lowland Sheepdog deaths with age at death reported.

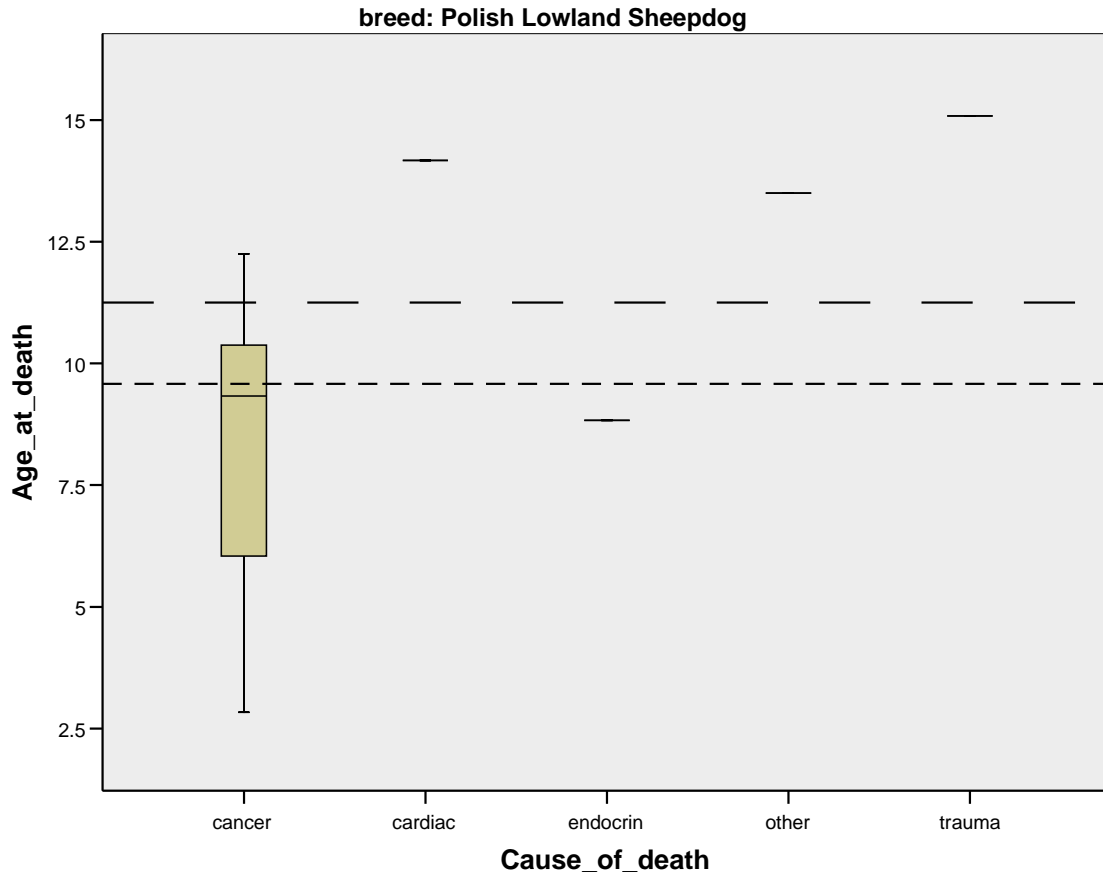


Figure 2. Box and whisker plot of age at death in years for the most common causes of death in Polish Lowland Sheepdogs (N=11). The dashed line (---) is the overall median age at death for all dogs in the survey and the dotted line (----) is the overall median age of death for Polish Lowland Sheepdogs. The solid line within each grey box represents the median age at death from the condition.

Morbidity data

The median current age of the 45 live dogs with a reported age was 6 years and 5 months (min=4 months, max=12 years and 1 month, Figure 3). Health information was reported for 45 live dogs of which 24 (53%) were healthy and 21 (47%) had at least one reported health condition, resulting in a total of 32 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=24) was 3 years and 10 months (min=4 months, max=12 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=19) was 7 years (min=1 year and 10 months, max=11 years and 8 months). The median age at diagnosis for all disease occurrences with a reported age at diagnosis (N=30) was 3 years and 0 months (min= 4 months, max= 10 years and 6 months, Figure 4). Table 3 shows the disease conditions for Polish Lowland Sheepdogs. Age at diagnosis is presented for the most common disease conditions (Figure 5).

Table 2. Distribution of gender and neuter status for 44 Polish Lowland Sheepdogs with reported gender and neuter status.

Gender	Neuter status		Totals
	Intact	Neutered	
Female	13	13	26 (59%)
Male	17	1	18 (41%)
Totals	30 (68%)	14 (32%)	44 (100%)

Significantly more females were neutered (P=0.0019).

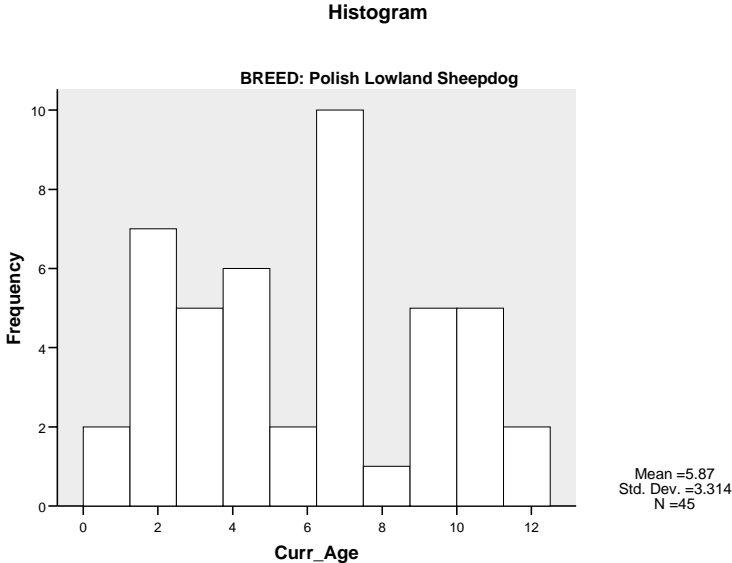


Figure 3. Histogram showing frequency of current age in years for the 45 live Polish Lowland Sheepdogs with age reported.

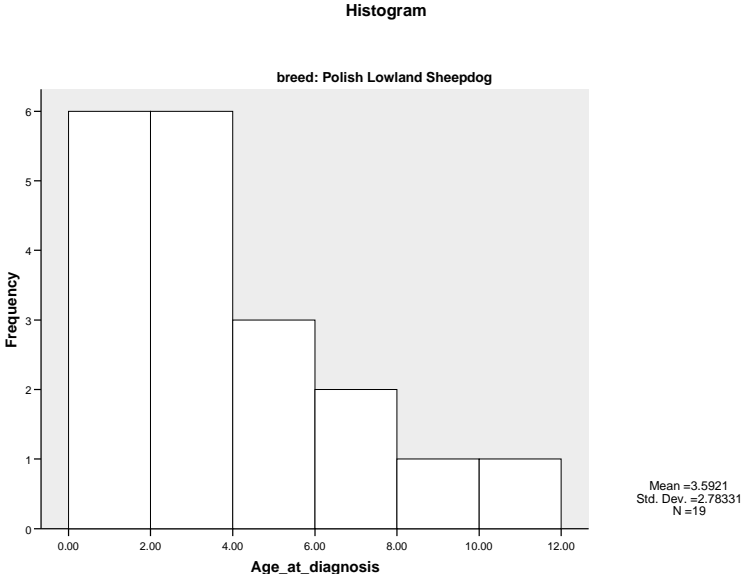


Figure 4. Histogram showing frequency of age at diagnosis for the 19 Polish Lowland Sheepdogs with one or more disease conditions, using the youngest age at which a disease condition was first reported for those dogs with more than one disease condition or episode.

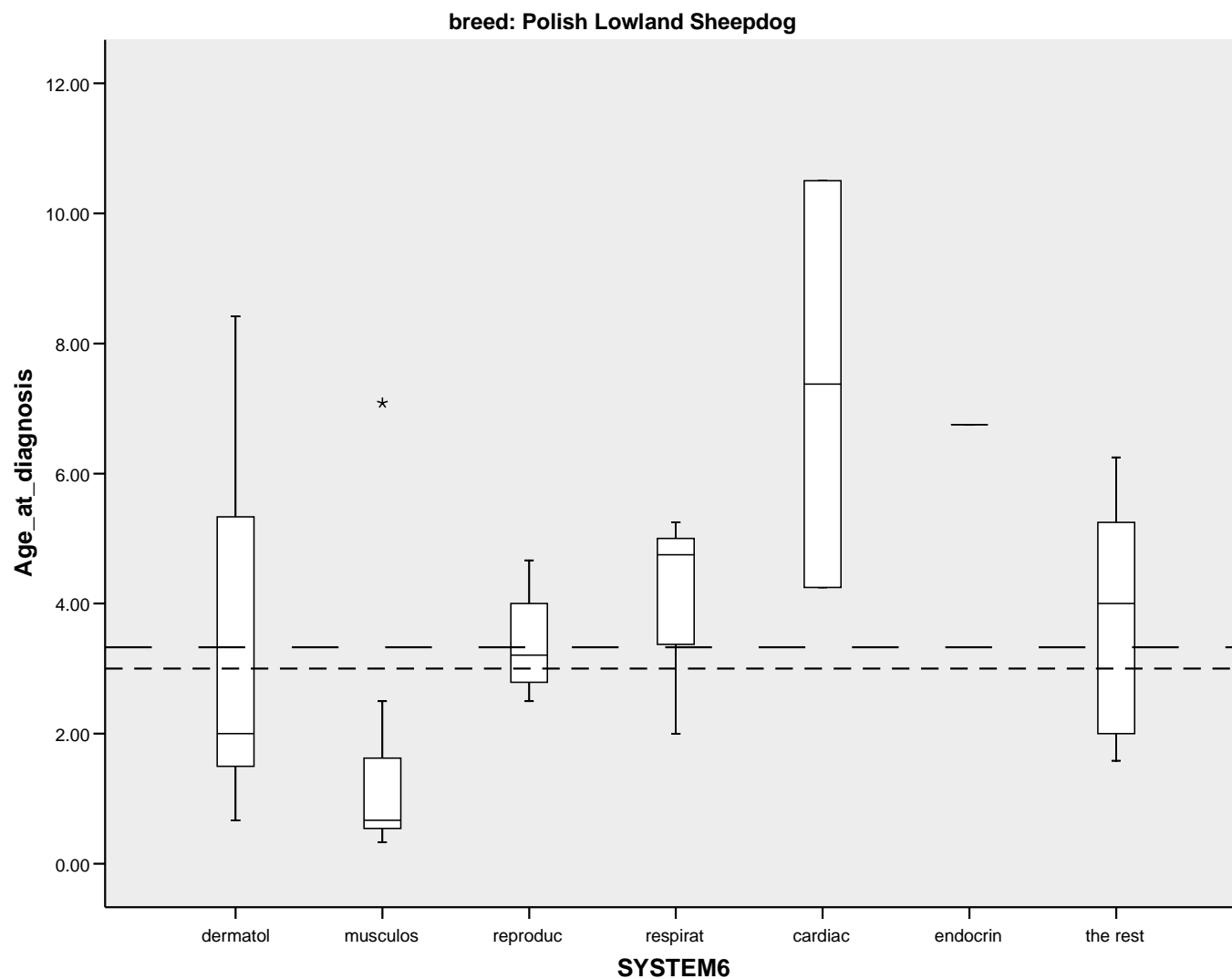


Figure 5. Box and whisker plot of age at diagnosis in years for the most common disease conditions in descending order for Polish Lowland Sheepdogs (N=19 dogs with 30 conditions with age reported). The dashed line (---) is the overall median age at diagnosis for all dogs in the survey and the dotted line (----) is the overall median age at diagnosis for Polish Lowland 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 Polish Lowland Sheepdogs.

Disease condition	All conditions		Most common specific conditions in descending order
	N	%	
1 Dermatologic	7	21.9	Pyotraumatic dermatitis; mites (sarcoptes); interdigital cysts
2 Musculoskeletal	7	21.9	Arthritis (hindlimb; hips); spinal fracture; CHD; lameness (forelimb); prognathism
3 Reproductive	4	12.5	Difficulty whelping unspecified; infertility; irregular heat cycles; spontaneous abortion
4 Respiratory	4	12.5	Kennel cough; noisy breathing
5 Cardiac	2	6.3	Heart murmur (unspecified; without clinical signs)
6 Endocrine	2	6.3	Diabetes mellitus; hyperthyroidism
7 Aural	1	3.1	Otitis externa
8 Benign neoplasia	1	3.1	Lipoma
9 Cancer	1	3.1	Histiocytoma
10 Gastrointestinal	1	3.1	Pancreatitis
11 Neurologic	1	3.1	Seizures
12 Trauma	1	3.1	Forelimb
Total	32	100.0	