

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

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

A total of 141 forms were sent out and 22 were returned, representing 126 live dogs. This breed had a 15.6% response rate (22/141) and it represented 0.16% of all returns (22/13,741).

Mortality data

A total of 29 deaths were reported and this represents 0.18% of all deaths reported in the survey (29/15,881). The median age at death for the Pomeranian breed was 9 years and 8 months (min = 7 months, max = 17 years and 3 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 Pomeranian 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 Pomeranian breed.

Cause of death	N	%	Most common specific causes in descending order
1 Cancer	6	20.7	Type unspecified (mammary, brain)
2 Cardiac	6	20.7	Heart disease unspecified; heart failure
3 Neurologic	3	10.3	Seizures
4 Gastrointestinal	2	6.9	Parvovirus; unspecified
5 Old age	2	6.9	Old age
6 Sudden death	2	6.9	
7 Unknown	2	6.9	
8 Collapse	1	3.4	
9 Other	1	3.4	Uncodeable
10 Perioperative	1	3.4	
11 Respiratory	1	3.4	Tracheal collapse
12 Trauma	1	3.4	Unspecified
13 Urologic	1	3.4	Protein losing nephropathyPLN
Total	29	100.0	

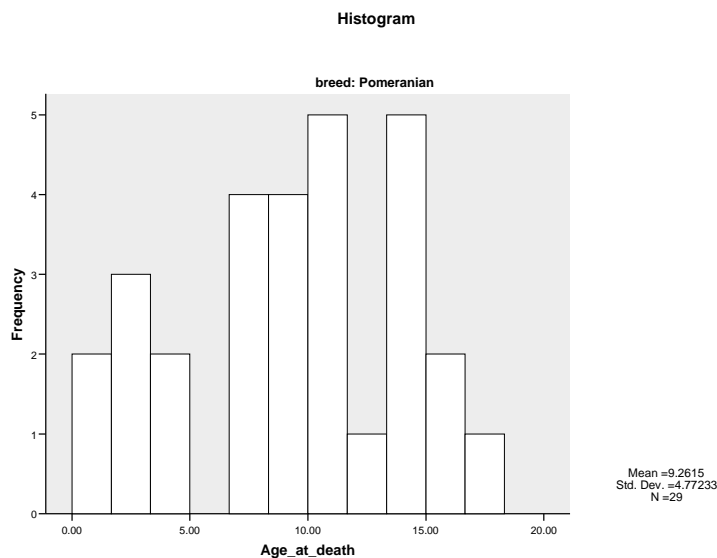


Figure 1. Histogram showing the frequency (as number of dogs) of age at death (in years) for the 29 Pomeranian deaths with age at death reported.

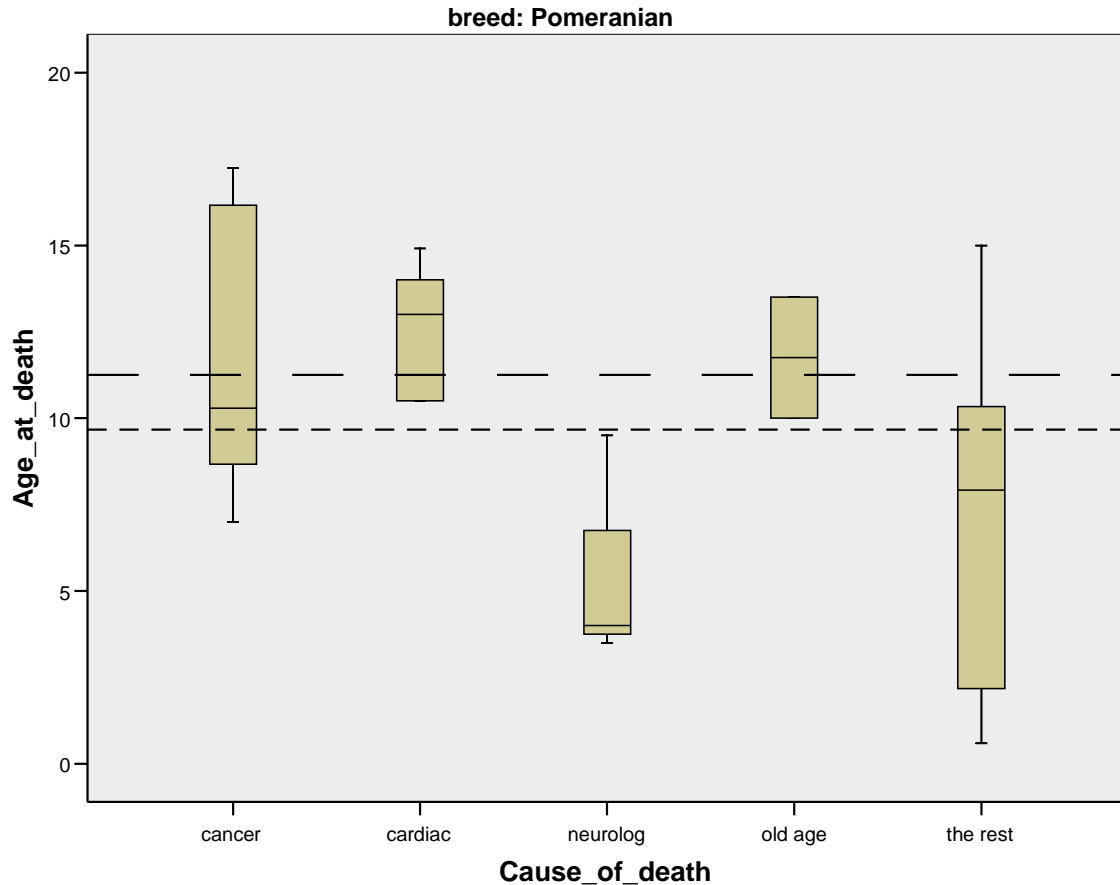


Figure 2. Box and whisker plot of age at death in years for the most common causes of death in the Pomeranian breed (N=29). The dashed line (---) is the overall median age at death for all dogs in the survey and the dotted line (----) is the overall median age of death for the Pomeranian breed. The solid line within each grey box represents the median age at death from the condition.

Morbidity data

The median current age of the 126 live dogs with a reported age was 3 years and 12 months (min=1 month, max=14 years and 6 months, Figure 3). Health information was reported for 126 live dogs of which 81 (64%) were healthy and 45 (36%) had at least one reported health condition, resulting in a total of 74 reported conditions with a median of 1 condition/dog (min=1, max=6).

The median current age of all healthy dogs with a reported age (N=81) was 3 years and 1 month (min=1 month, max=14 years and 4 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=43) was 5 years and 5 months (min=11 months, max=14 years and 6 months). The median age at diagnosis for all disease occurrences with a reported age at diagnosis (N=70) was 2 years (min= 3 months, max= 12 years, Figure 4). Table 3 shows the disease conditions for the Pomeranian breed. Age at diagnosis is presented for the most common disease conditions (Figure 5).

Table 2. Distribution of gender and neuter status for the 123 Pomeranian breed with reported gender and neuter status.

Gender	Neuter status		Totals
	Intact	Neutered	
Female	67	13	80 (65%)
Male	37	6	43 (35%)
Totals	104 (85%)	19 (15%)	123 (100%)

There was no association between gender and neuter status (P=0.7368).

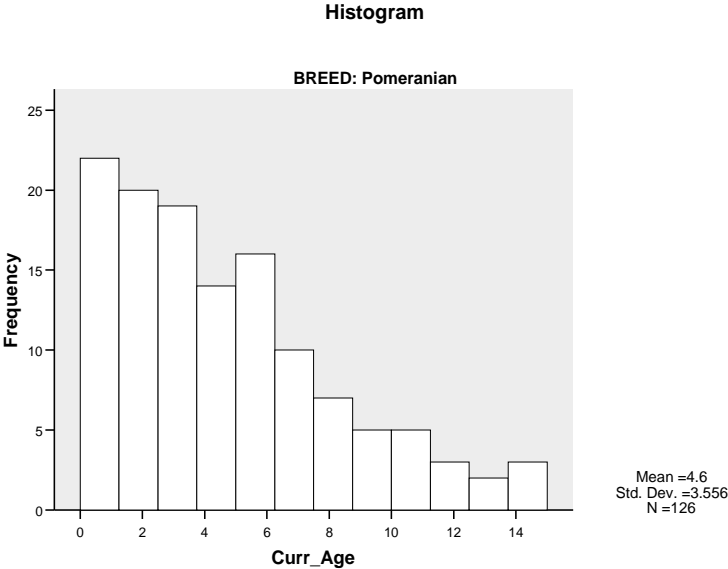


Figure 3. Histogram showing frequency of current age in years for the 126 live Pomeranian breed with age reported.

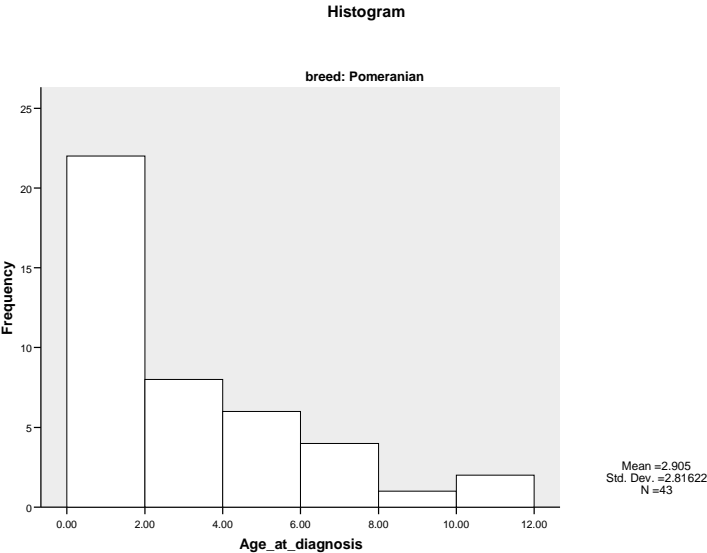


Figure 4. Histogram showing frequency of age at diagnosis for the 43 Pomeranian breed with one or more disease conditions, using the youngest age at which a disease condition was first reported for those dogs with more than one disease condition or episode.

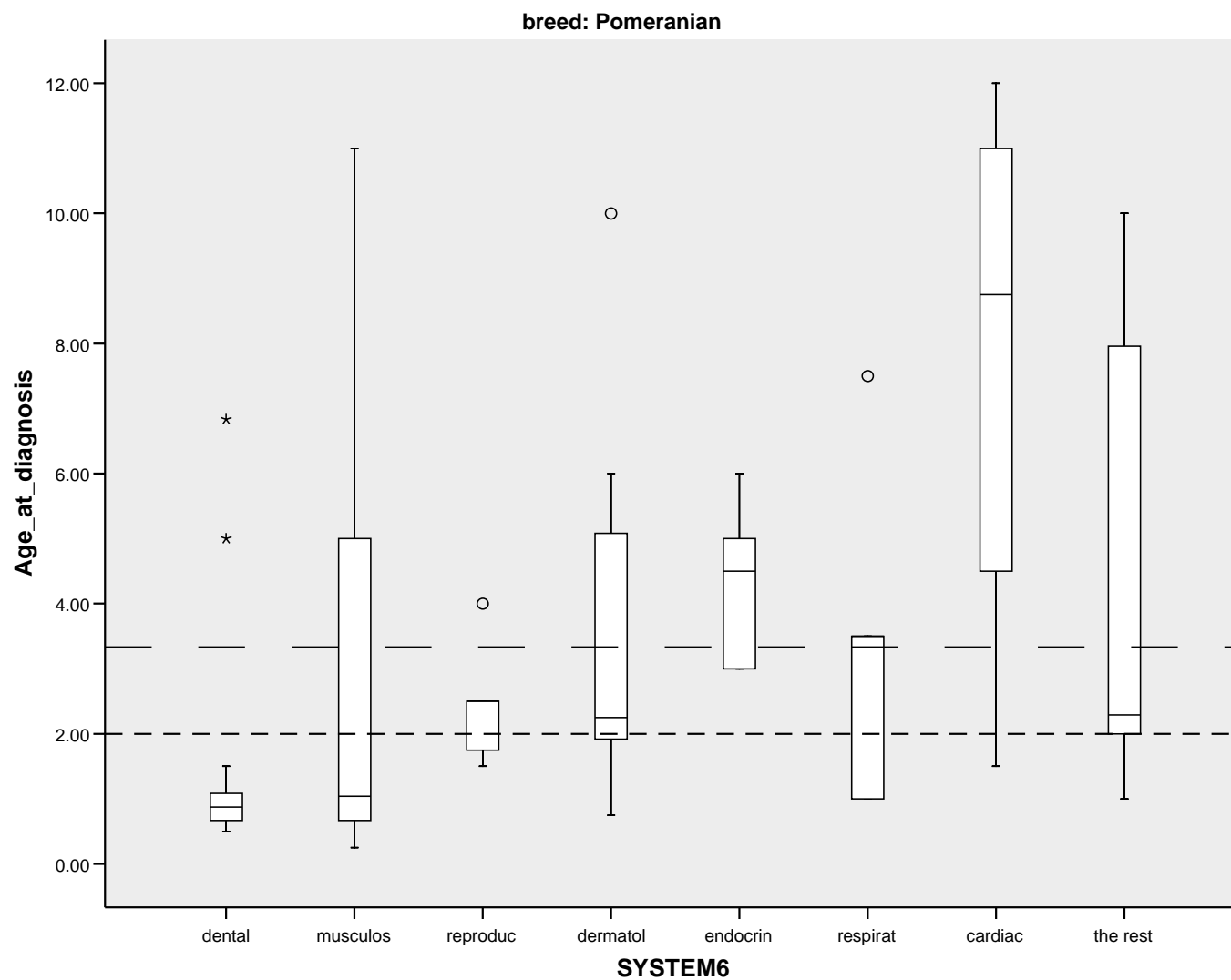


Figure 5. Box and whisker plot of age at diagnosis in years for the most common disease conditions in descending order for the Pomeranian breed (N=43 dogs with 70 conditions with age reported). The dashed line (---) is the overall median age at diagnosis for all dogs in the survey and the dotted line (----) is the overall median age at diagnosis for the Pomeranian 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 Pomeranian breed.

Disease condition	All conditions		Most common specific conditions in descending order
	N	%	
1 Dental	18	24.3	Retained puppy teeth; dental disease
2 Musculoskeletal	11	14.9	Patellar luxation; prognathism; arthritis (unspecified)
3 Reproductive	11	14.9	Infertility;agalactia; uterine inertia; false pregnancy; irregular heat cycles; prostatomegaly
4 Dermatologic	8	10.8	Pyotraumatic dermatitis; dermatitis; alopecia; recurrent pyoderma; unspecified
5 Endocrine	6	8.1	Unspecified; hypothyroidism
6 Respiratory	5	6.8	Hypoplastic trachea; noisy breathing; tracheal collapse; trachitis
7 Cardiac	4	5.4	Heart murmur (unspecified; grade 3); CHF; arrhythmia
8 Ocular	3	4.1	Epiphora; corneal ulcer
9 Aural	2	2.7	Otitis externa
10 Cerebrovascular	1	1.4	Stroke or cerebral vascular accident
11 Gastrointestinal	1	1.4	Colitis
12 Immune mediated	1	1.4	Gluten-sensitive enteropathy
13 Neurologic	1	1.4	Granulomatous meningoencephalitis (GME)
14 Trauma	1	1.4	Unspecified
15 Uncode and other	1	1.4	Uncodeable
Total	74	100.0	