

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

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

A total of 425 forms were sent out and 173 were returned, representing 358 live dogs. This breed had a 40.7% response rate (173/425) and it represented 1.26% of all returns (173/13,741).

### Mortality data

A total of 223 deaths were reported and this represents 1.40% of all deaths reported in the survey (223/15,881). The median age at death for the Samoyed breed was 12 years and 6 months (min = 4 months, max = 17 years) 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 Samoyed 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 Samoyed breed.

Cause of death	N	%	Most common specific causes in descending order
1 Cancer	59	26.5	Type unspecified (mammary, liver); carcinoma
2 Old age	46	20.6	Old age & age combinations
3 Combinations	20	9.0	
4 Musculoskeletal	14	6.3	Arthritis; hip dysplasia
5 Other	14	6.3	Uncodeable
6 Cardiac	11	4.9	Heart failure; heart attack; hypertrophic cardiomyopathy
7 Gastrointestinal	9	4.0	Gastric dilatation/volvulus (GDV); gastric ulcer
8 Hepatic	7	3.1	Liver failure
9 Urologic	6	2.7	Kidney failure (chronic>acute); juvenile nephropathy
10 Endocrine	5	2.2	Diabetes mellitus; Addisons disease
11 Neurologic	5	2.2	Seizures; encephalitis (unspecified); spinal cord disease
12 Unknown	5	2.2	
13 Cerebral vascular	4	1.8	Stroke or cerebral vascular accident
14 Respiratory	3	1.3	Pneumonia; bronchitis
15 Immune mediated	2	0.9	Unspecified
16 Perioperative	2	0.9	
17 Poisoning	2	0.9	
18 Sudden death	2	0.9	
19 Trauma	2	0.9	Road traffic accident; spinal injury
20 Portosystemic shunt (PSS)	1	0.4	
21 Behaviour	1	0.4	Unspecified
22 Infection	1	0.4	Leptospirosis
23 Reproductive	1	0.4	Pregnancy complications
24 Septicaemia	1	0.4	
Total	223	100.0	

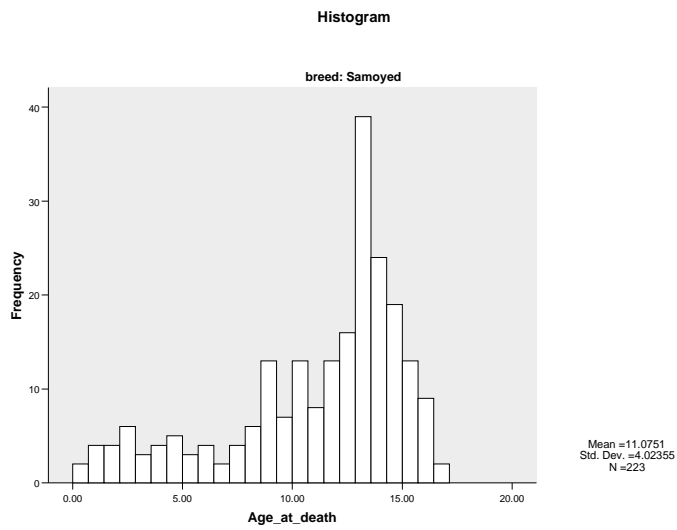


Figure 1. Histogram showing the frequency (as number of dogs) of age at death (in years) for the 223 Samoyed deaths with age at death reported.

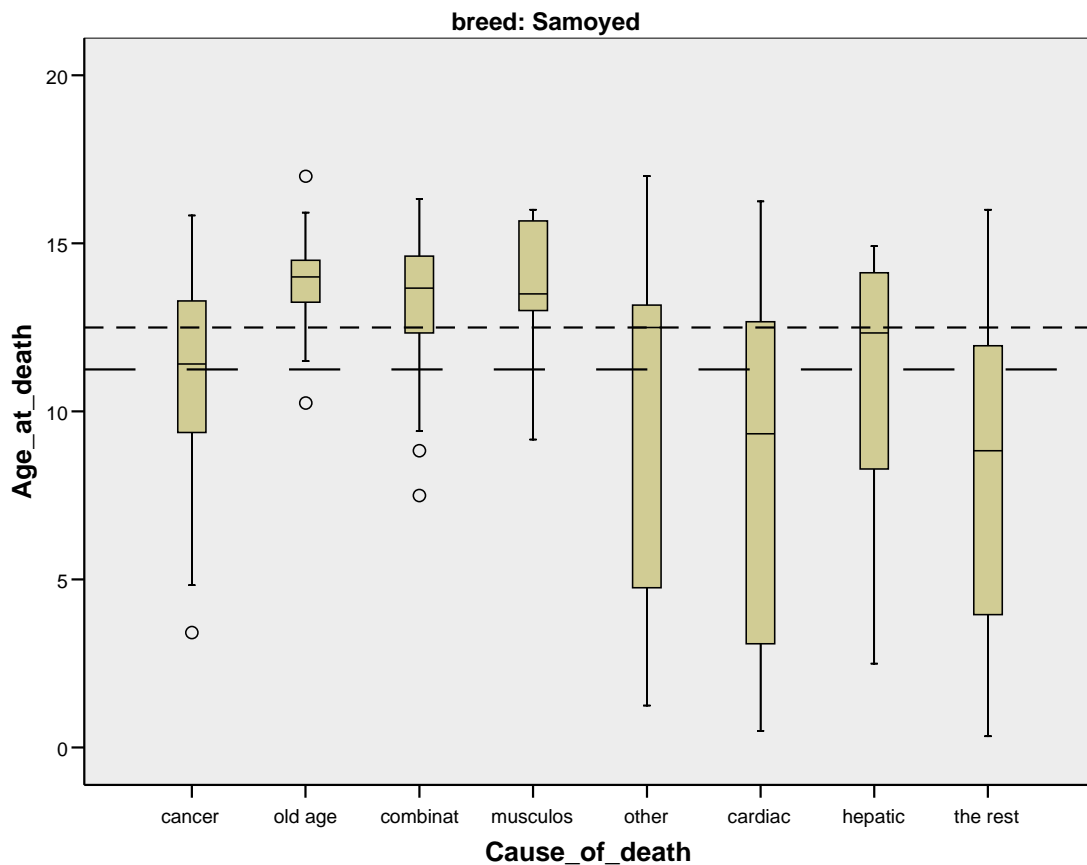


Figure 2. Box and whisker plot of age at death in years for the most common causes of death in the Samoyed breed (N=223). The dashed line (---) is the overall median age at death for all dogs in the survey and the dotted line (----) is the overall median age of death for the Samoyed breed. The solid line within each grey box represents the median age at death from the condition.

**Morbidity data**

The median current age of the 356 live dogs with a reported age was 5 years and 10 months (min=3 months, max=16 years, Figure 3). Health information was reported for 358 live dogs of which 195 (54%) were healthy and 163 (46%) had at least one reported health condition, resulting in a total of 310 reported conditions with a median of 1 condition/dog (min=1, max=11).

The median current age of all healthy dogs with a reported age (N=195) was 3 years and 11 months (min=3 months, max=14 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=161) was 7 years and 11 months (min=10 months, max=16 years). The median age at diagnosis for all disease occurrences with a reported age at diagnosis (N=305) was 4 years and 9 months (min= 2 months, max= 14 years, Figure 4). Table 3 shows the disease conditions for the Samoyed breed. Age at diagnosis is presented for the most common disease conditions (Figure 5).

Table 2. Distribution of gender and neuter status for the 354 Samoyed breed with reported gender and neuter status.

Gender	Neuter status		Totals
	Intact	Neutered	
Female	133	98	231 (65%)
Male	95	28	123 (35%)
Totals	228 (64%)	126 (36%)	354 (100%)

Significantly more females were neutered (P=0.0002).

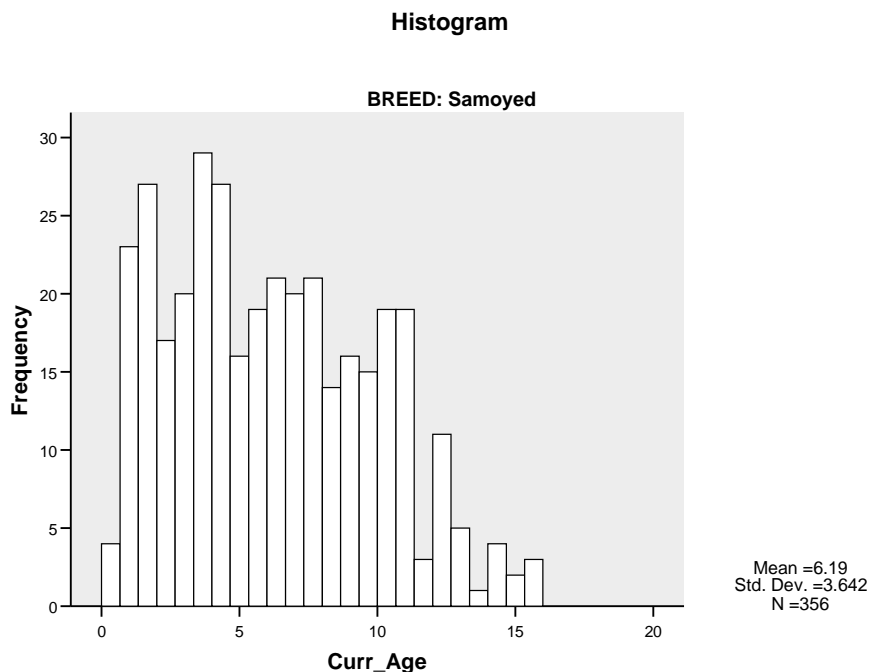


Figure 3. Histogram showing frequency of current age in years for the 356 live Samoyed breed with age reported.

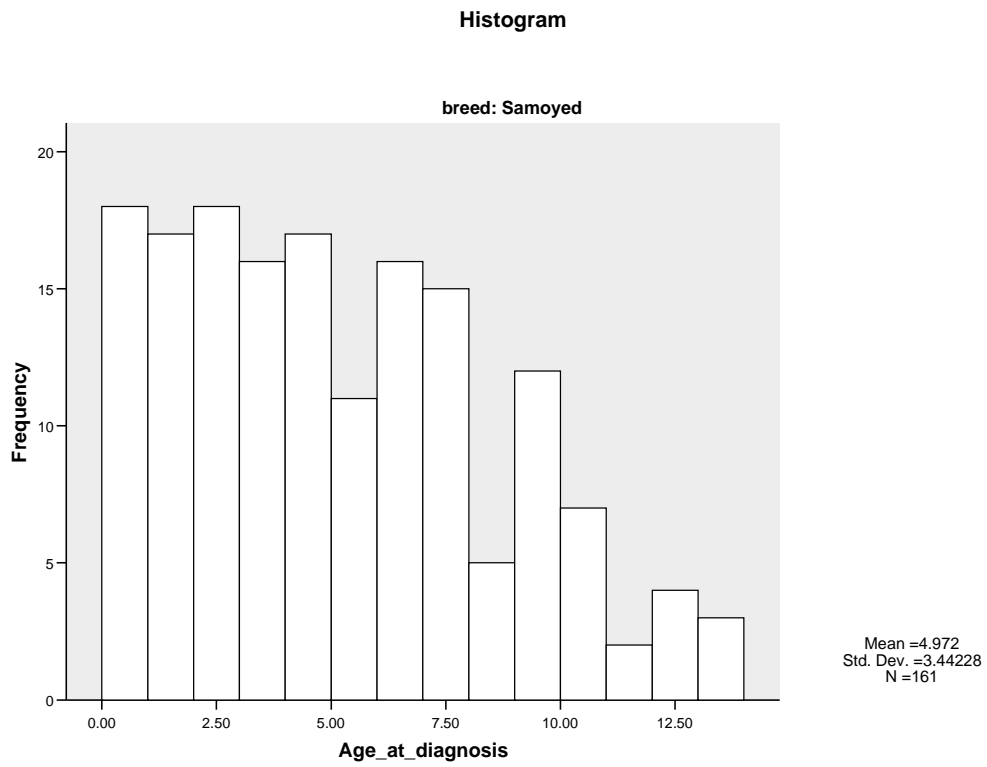


Figure 4. Histogram showing frequency of age at diagnosis for the 161 Samoyed breed with one or more disease conditions, using the youngest age at which a disease condition was first reported for those dogs with more than one disease condition or episode.

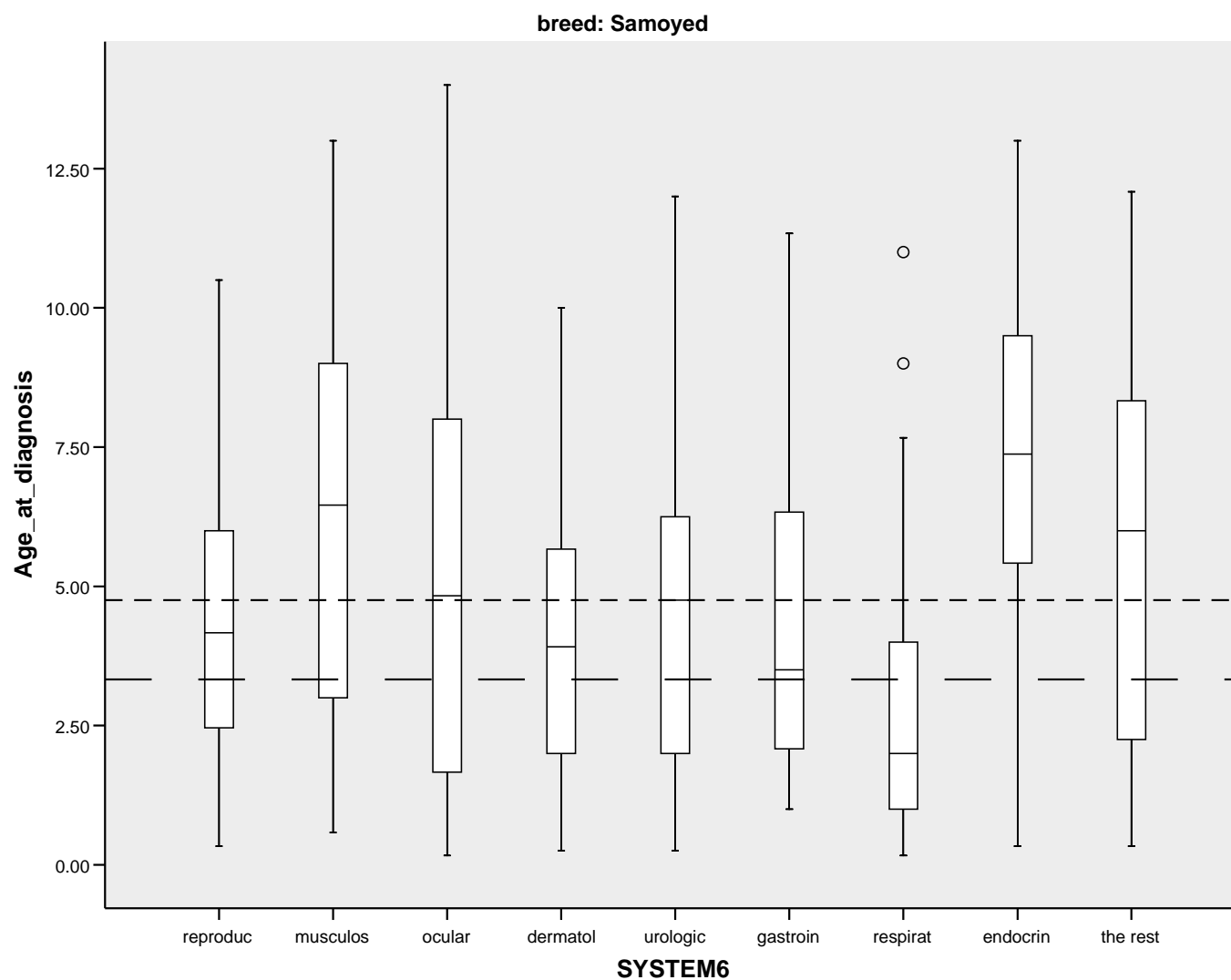


Figure 5. Box and whisker plot of age at diagnosis in years for the most common disease conditions in descending order for the Samoyed breed (N=161 dogs with 305 conditions with age reported). The dashed line (---) is the overall median age at diagnosis for all dogs in the survey and the dotted line (----) is the overall median age at diagnosis for the Samoyed 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 Samoyed breed.

Disease condition	All conditions		Most common specific conditions in descending order
	N	%	
1 Reproductive	59	19.0	Dystochia (uterine inertia>physical blockage); pyometra; cryptorchid; false pregnancy
2 Musculoskeletal	46	14.8	Arthritis (hindlimb>shoulders=unspec>hips=wrists=elbows>rest); CLR; CHD
3 Ocular	46	14.8	Corneal ulcer; conjunctivitis; cataracts; distichiasis; epiphora
4 Dermatologic	43	13.9	Fading nose pigment; pyotraumatic dermatitis; mites (sarcoptes>unspecified); dermatitis
5 Urologic	25	8.1	Cystitis; incontinence (unspecified>after spay); cystouroliths (struvite>unspecified)
6 Gastrointestinal	20	6.5	Foreign body obstruction; bacterial overgrowth; colitis; diarrhoea; pancreatitis; vomiting
7 Respiratory	15	4.8	Kennel cough; coughing; rhinitis; noisy breathing; pneumonia
8 Endocrine	12	3.9	Diabetes mellitus; hypothyroidism; diabetes insipidus; Cushings disease; hypoparathyroidism
9 Cardiac	7	2.3	Heart murmur (unspecified>grade 1); cardiomegaly; arrhythmia
10 Dental	7	2.3	Dental disease; defect other than extra teeth; missing lower teeth; retained puppy teeth
11 Immune mediated	7	2.3	Flea allergy; food allergy; atopy; gluten-sensitive enteropathy
12 Benign neoplasia	5	1.6	Lipoma; adenoma (anal); unspecified
13 Cancer	5	1.6	Unspecified (mammary>spleen=testicular); lymphoma (ribcage)
14 Trauma	4	1.3	Ocular (cornea; eyeball; eyelid); musculoskeletal (hindlimb)
15 Unknown	3	1.0	Undiagnosed illness
16 Aural	2	0.6	Otitis externa; excessive ear wax
17 Anal gland	1	0.3	Anal sacculitis
18 Cerebrovascular	1	0.3	Stroke or cerebral vascular accident
19 Haematopoietic	1	0.3	Anaemia unspecified
20 Other	1	0.3	Uncodeable
Total	310	100.0	