

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

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

A total of 109 forms were sent out and 21 were returned, representing 77 live dogs. This breed had a 19.3% response rate (21/109) and it represented 0.15% of all returns (21/13,741).

Mortality data

A total of 36 deaths were reported and this represents 0.23% of all deaths reported in the survey (36/15,881). The median age at death for the Schipperke breed was 13 years (min = 6 months, max = 17 years and 6 months) 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 Schipperke 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 Schipperke breed.

Cause of death	N	%	Most common specific causes in descending order
1 Cancer	11	30.6	Type unspecified; carcinoma
2 Old age	6	16.7	Old age
3 Cardiac	3	8.3	Heart attack; heart failure; mitral valve disease (MVD)
4 Urologic	3	8.3	Kidney failure
5 Other	2	5.6	Uncodeable
6 Trauma	2	5.6	Rod traffic accident; unspecified
7 Cerebral vascular	1	2.8	Stroke or cerebral vascular accident
8 Gastrointestinal	1	2.8	Inflammatory bowel disease (IBD)
9 Hepatic	1	2.8	Liver failure
10 Immune mediated	1	2.8	Unspecified
11 Ocular	1	2.8	Blindness
12 Pining	1	2.8	
13 Respiratory	1	2.8	Respiratory disease unspecified
14 Senility	1	2.8	
15 Unknown	1	2.8	
Total	36	100.0	

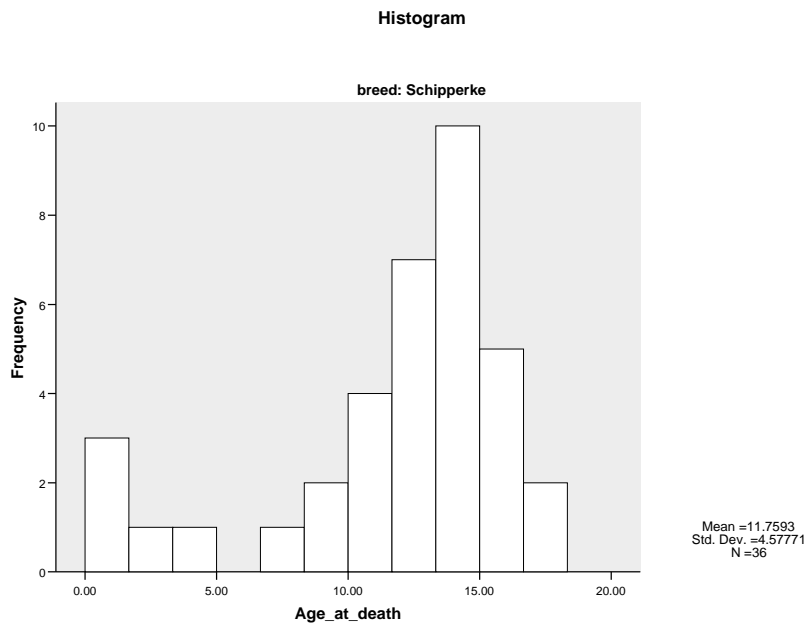


Figure 1. Histogram showing the frequency (as number of dogs) of age at death (in years) for the 36 Schipperke deaths with age at death reported.

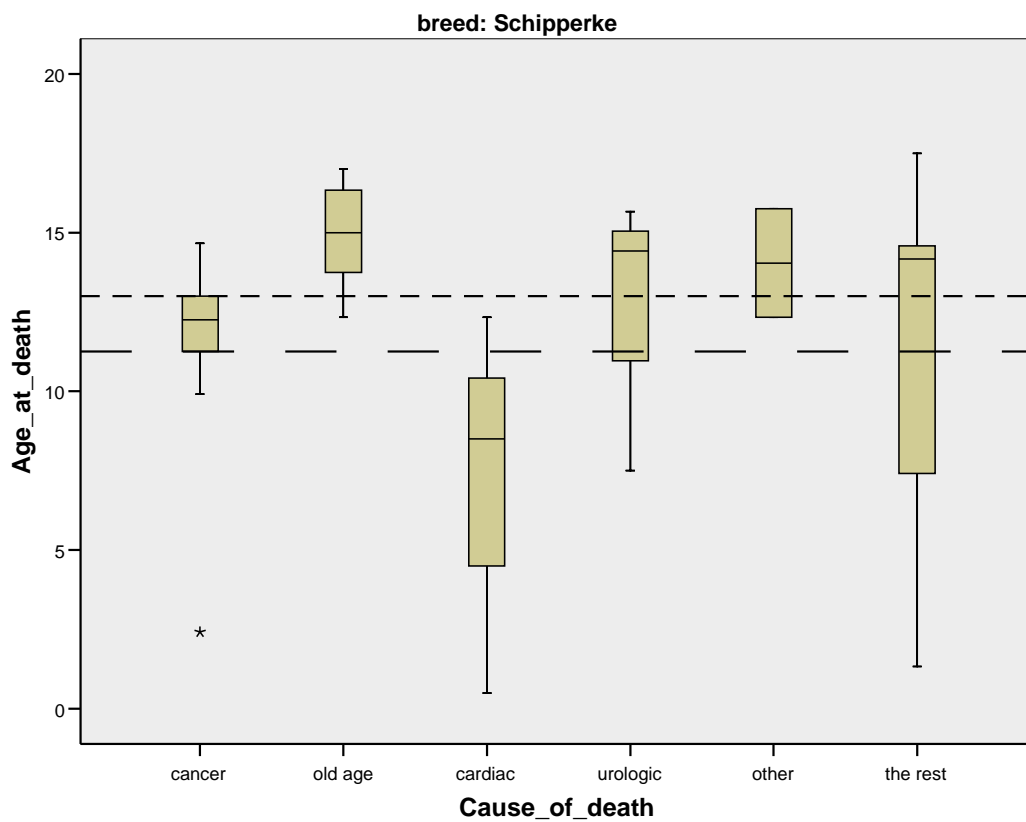


Figure 2. Box and whisker plot of age at death in years for the most common causes of death in the Schipperke breed (N=36). The dashed line (---) is the overall median age at death for all dogs in the survey and the dotted line (----) is the overall median age of death for the Schipperke breed. The solid line within each grey box represents the median age at death from the condition.

Morbidity data

The median current age of the 77 live dogs with a reported age was 5 years (min=1 month, max=15 years and 7 months, Figure 3). Health information was reported for 77 live dogs of which 54 (70%) were healthy and 23 (30%) had at least one reported health condition, resulting in a total of 31 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=54) was 4 years and 1 month (min=1 month, max=14 years and 3 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=22) was 6 years and 5 months (min=10 months, max=15 years and 7 months). The median age at diagnosis for all disease occurrences with a reported age at diagnosis (N=30) was 2 years and 8 months (min= 2 months, max= 15 years, Figure 4). Table 3 shows the disease conditions for the Schipperke breed. Age at diagnosis is presented for the most common disease conditions (Figure 5).

Table 2. Distribution of gender and neuter status for the 77 Schipperke breed with reported gender and neuter status.

Gender	Neuter status		Totals
	Intact	Neutered	
Female	30	14	44 (57%)
Male	27	6	33 (43%)
Totals	57 (74%)	20 (26%)	77 (100%)

There was no association between gender and neuter status (P=0.1769).

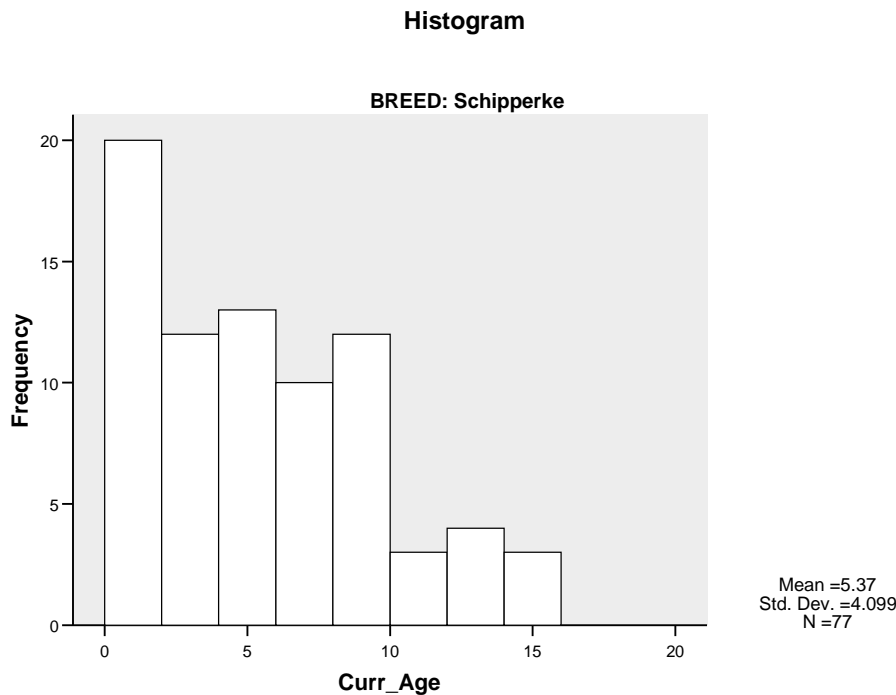


Figure 3. Histogram showing frequency of current age in years for the 77 live Schipperke breed with age reported.

Histogram

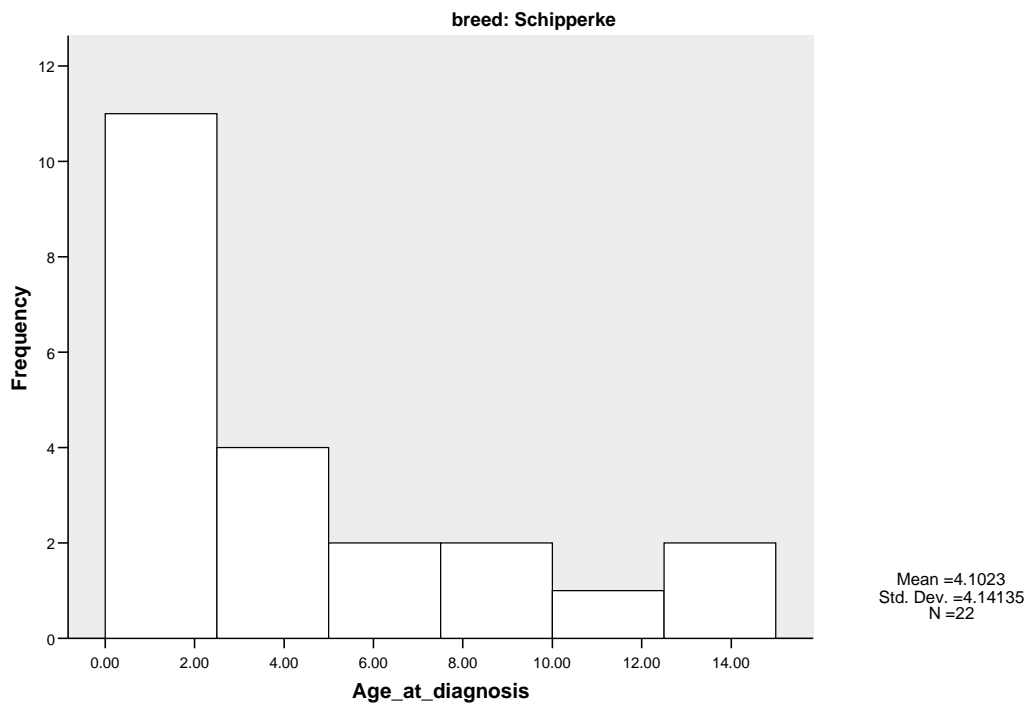


Figure 4. Histogram showing frequency of age at diagnosis for the 22 Schipperke breed with one or more disease conditions, using the youngest age at which a disease condition was first reported for those dogs with more than one disease condition or episode.

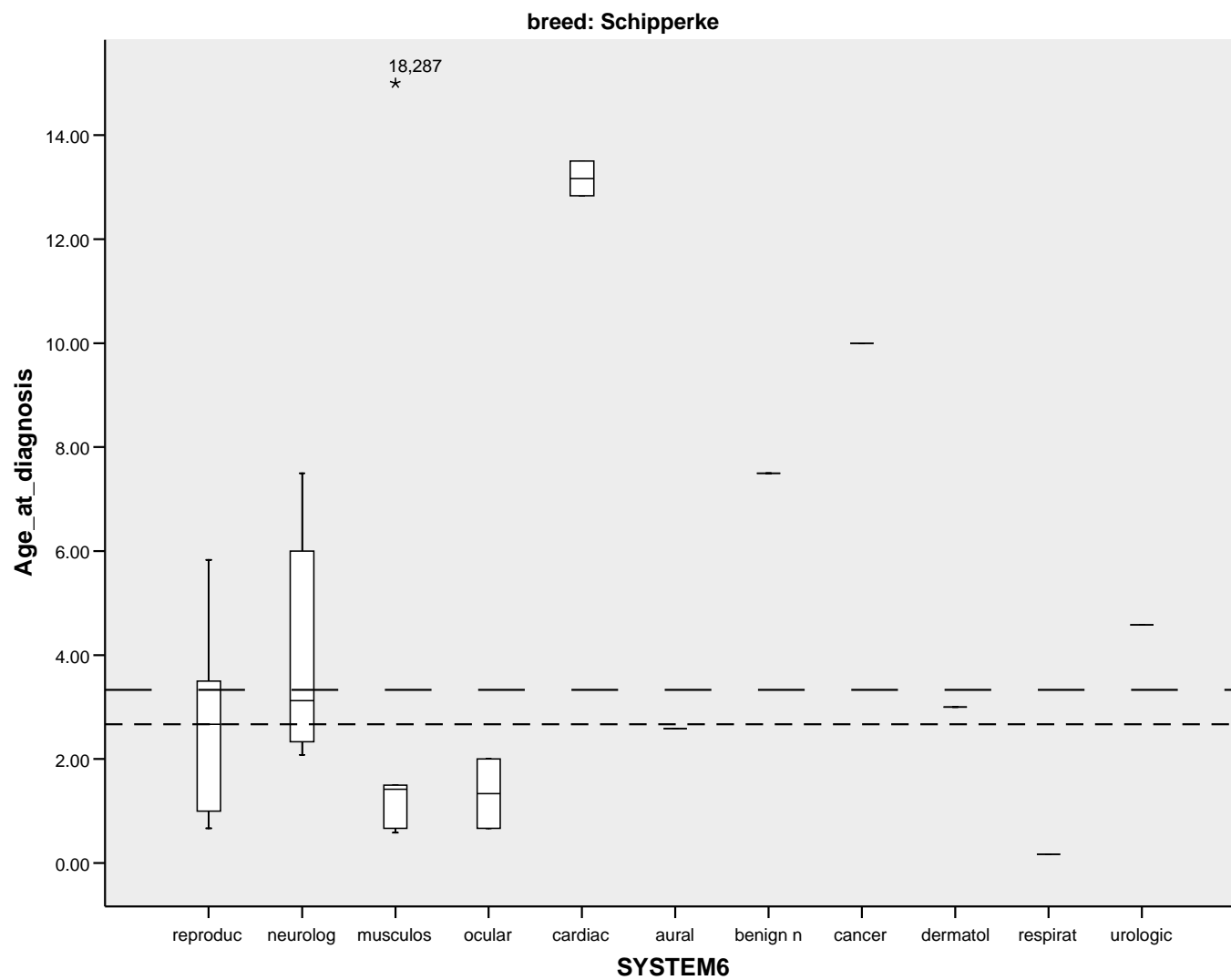


Figure 5. Box and whisker plot of age at diagnosis in years for the most common disease conditions in descending order for the Schipperke breed (N=22 dogs with 30 conditions with age reported). The dashed line (---) is the overall median age at diagnosis for all dogs in the survey and the dotted line (----) is the overall median age at diagnosis for the Schipperke 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 Schipperke breed.

Disease condition	All conditions		Most common specific conditions in descending order
	N	%	
1 Reproductive	9	29.0	Cryptorchid; dystochia (uterine inertia>physical blockage); agalactia; false pregnancy
2 Neurologic	6	19.4	Seizures
3 Musculoskeletal	5	16.1	Avascular necrosis of the femoral head or ; arthritis; CLR; coxofemoral luxation
4 Ocular	3	9.7	Blocked tear duct; epiphora
5 Cardiac	2	6.5	Chronic heart failure; heart murmur (unspecified)
6 Aural	1	3.2	Narrow ear canal
7 Benign neoplasia	1	3.2	Lipoma
8 Cancer	1	3.2	Unspecified (mammary)
9 Dermatologic	1	3.2	Fading nose pigment
10 Respiratory	1	3.2	Noisy breathing
11 Urologic	1	3.2	Pyelonephritis
Total	31	100.0	

Avascular necrosis of the femoral head = Legg Calve Perthes disease