

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

Summary results of the  
Purebred Dog Health Survey  
for the Swedish Vallhund 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 Swedish Vallhund breed

A total of 71 forms were sent out and 16 were returned, representing 49 live dogs. This breed had a 22.5% response rate (16/71) and it represented 0.12% of all returns (16/13,741).

### Mortality data

A total of 17 deaths were reported and this represents 0.11% of all deaths reported in the survey (17/15,881). The median age at death for the Swedish Vallhund breed was 14 years and 2 months (min = 4 years, max = 18 years and 10 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 Swedish Vallhund 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 Swedish Vallhund breed.

Cause of death	N	%	Most common specific causes in descending order
1 Old age	7	41.2	Old age & age combinations
2 Cancer	6	35.3	Type unspecified (liver); carcinoma; brain tumour
3 Neurologic	2	11.8	Seizures
4 Cardiac	1	5.9	Heart failure
5 Other	1	5.9	Uncodeable
Total	17	100.0	

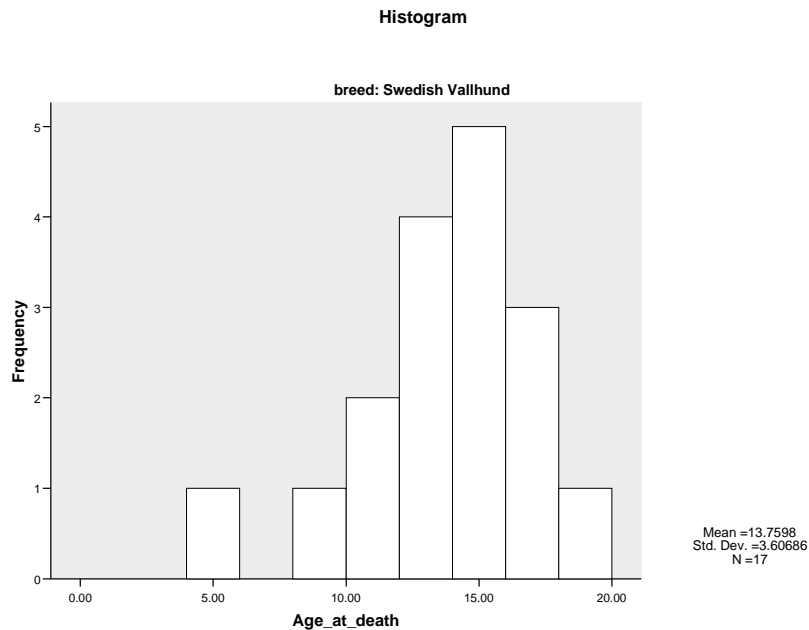


Figure 1. Histogram showing the frequency (as number of dogs) of age at death (in years) for the 17 Swedish Vallhund deaths with age at death reported.

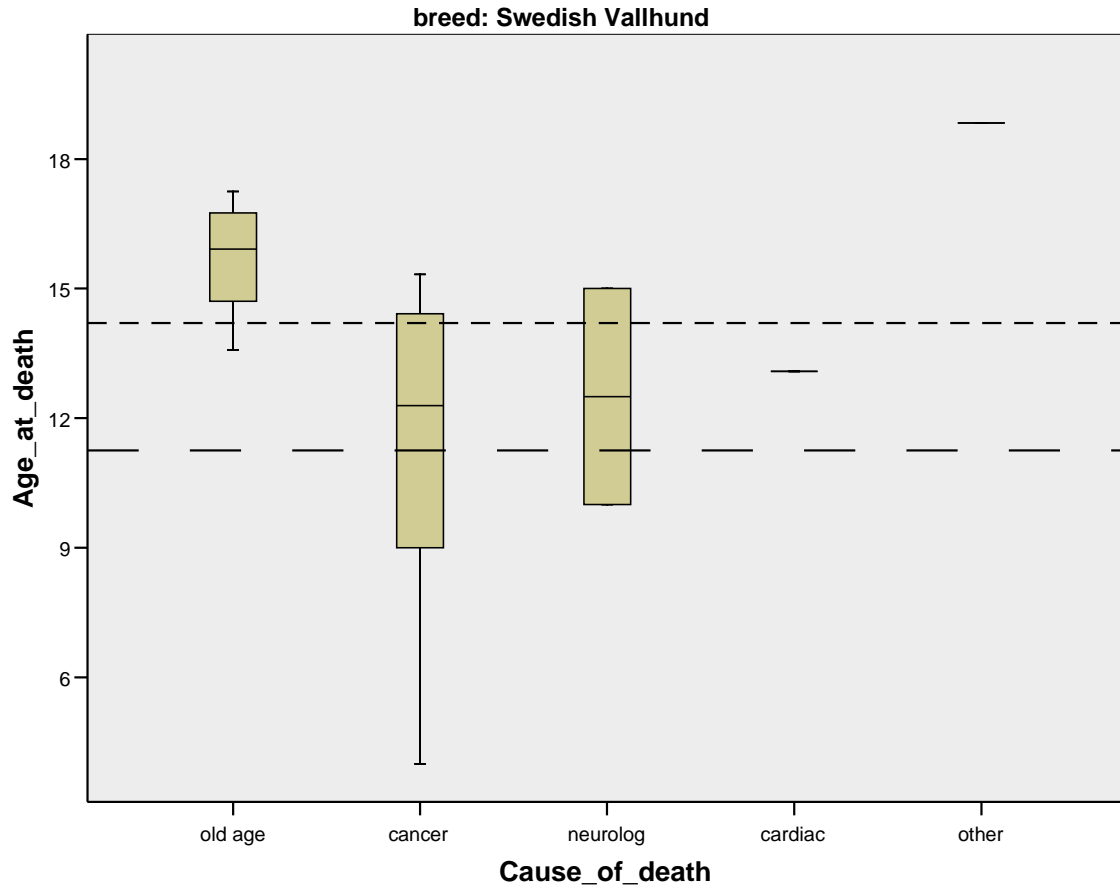


Figure 2. Box and whisker plot of age at death in years for the most common causes of death in the Swedish Vallhund breed (N=17). The dashed line (---) is the overall median age at death for all dogs in the survey and the dotted line (----) is the overall median age of death for the Swedish Vallhund 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 49 live dogs with a reported age was 5 years and 4 months (min=4 months, max=15 years and 11 months, Figure 3). Health information was reported for 49 live dogs of which 36 (73%) were healthy and 13 (27%) had at least one reported health condition, resulting in a total of 23 reported conditions with a median of 1 condition/dog (min=1, max=4).

The median current age of all healthy dogs with a reported age (N=36) was 3 years and 10 months (min=4 months, max=14 years and 5 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=12) was 11 years (min=5 years and 9 months, max=15 years and 11 months). The median age at diagnosis for all disease occurrences with a reported age at diagnosis (N=22) was 7 years (min= 8 months, max= 15 years, Figure 4). Table 3 shows the disease conditions for the Swedish Vallhund breed. Age at diagnosis is presented for the most common disease conditions (Figure 5).

Table 2. Distribution of gender and neuter status for the 48 Swedish Vallhund breed with reported gender and neuter status.

Gender	Neuter status		Totals
	Intact	Neutered	
Female	19	14	33 (69%)
Male	15	0	15 (31%)
Totals	34 (71%)	14 (29%)	48 (100%)

Significantly more females were neutered (P=0.0027).

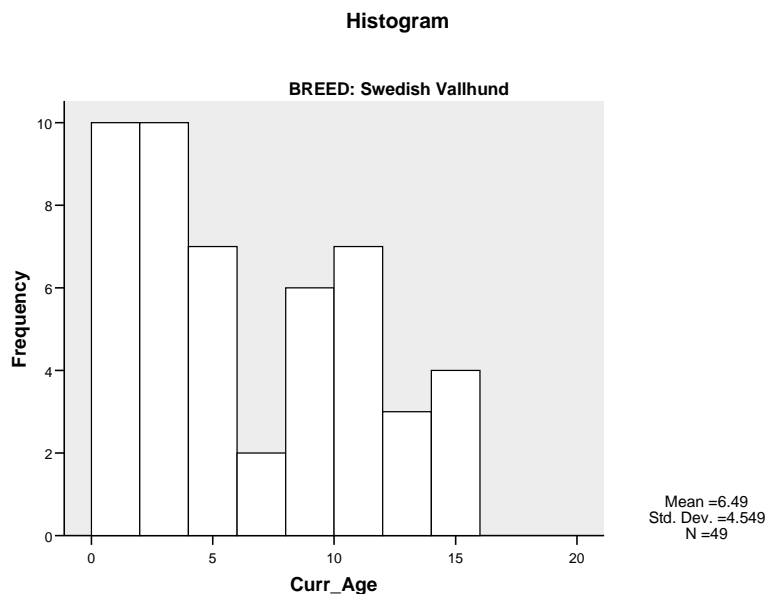


Figure 3. Histogram showing frequency of current age in years for the 49 live Swedish Vallhunds with age reported.

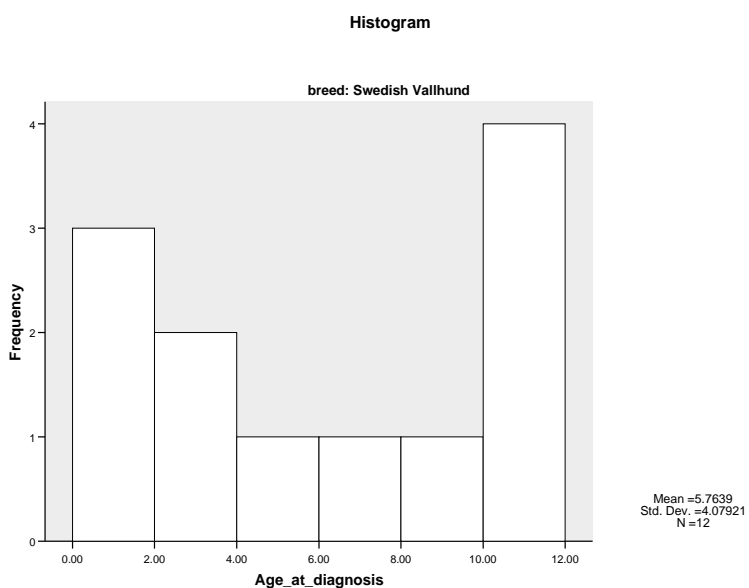


Figure 4. Histogram showing frequency of age at diagnosis for the 12 Swedish Vallhund breed with one or more disease conditions, using the youngest age at which a disease condition was first reported for those dogs with more than one disease condition or episode.

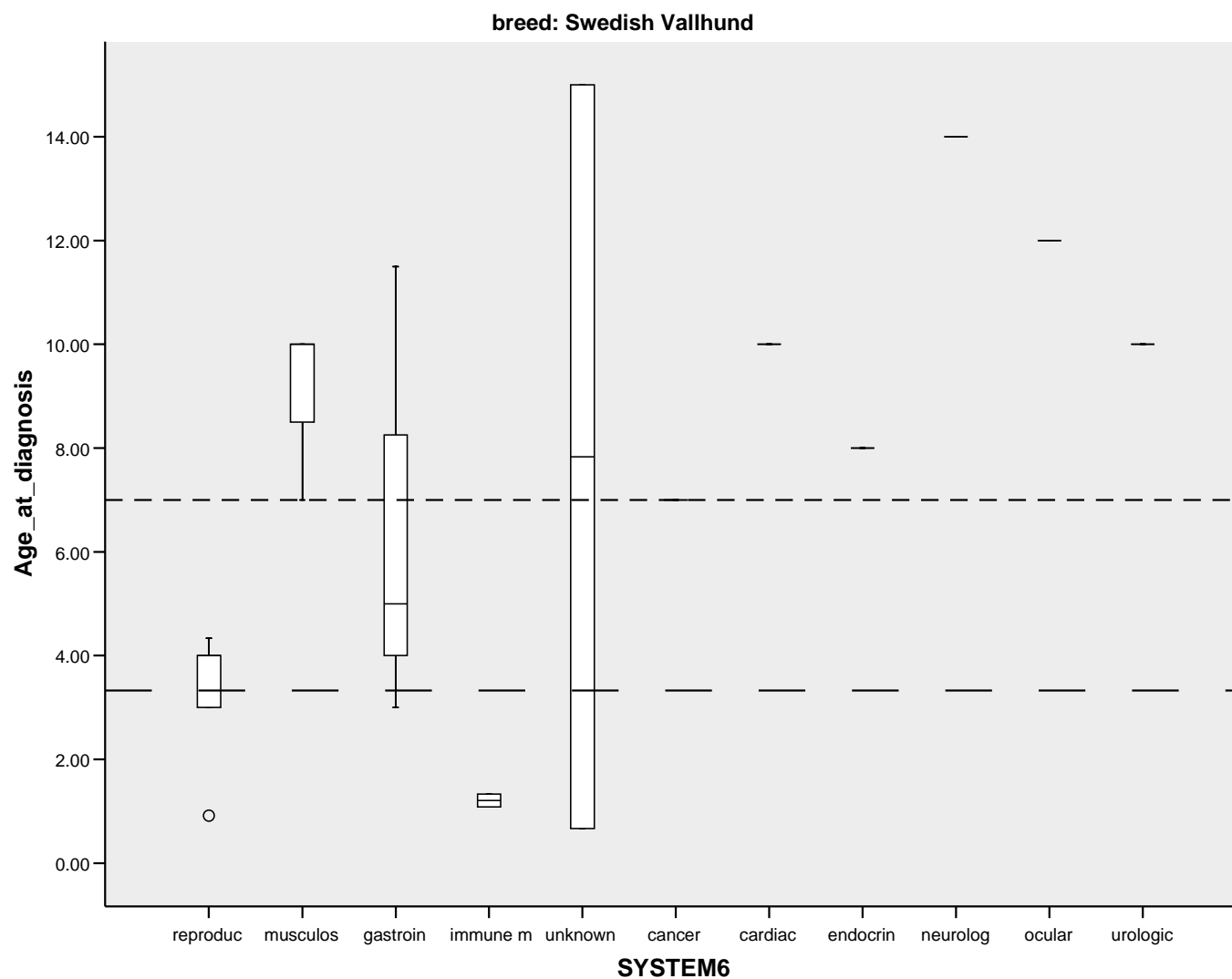


Figure 5. Box and whisker plot of age at diagnosis in years for the most common disease conditions in descending order for the Swedish Vallhund breed (N=12 dogs with 22 conditions with age reported). The dashed line (---) is the overall median age at diagnosis for all dogs in the survey and the dotted line (----) is the overall median age at diagnosis for the Swedish Vallhund 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 Swedish Vallhund breed.

Disease condition	All conditions		Most common specific conditions in descending order
	N	%	
1 Reproductive	5	21.7	Dystochia (uterine inertia=physical blockage); false pregnancy; infertility; irregular heats
2 Musculoskeletal	4	17.4	Arthritis (hips>elbows=forelimb)
3 Gastrointestinal	3	13.0	Foreign body obstruction; pancreatitis
4 Immune mediated	3	13.0	AIHA; skin disease (unspecified); allergy other (unspecified)
5 Unknown	2	8.7	Undiagnosed illness
6 Cancer	1	4.3	Unspecified (foreleg)
7 Cardiac	1	4.3	Arrhythmia
8 Endocrine	1	4.3	Hypothyroidism
9 Neurologic	1	4.3	Deafness
10 Ocular	1	4.3	Cataracts
11 Urologic	1	4.3	Incontinence (after spay)
Total	23	100.0	