

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

Summary results of the
Purebred Dog Health Survey
for Tibetan Spaniels

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%.

Tibetan Spaniels

A total of 314 forms were sent out and 99 were returned, representing 379 live dogs. This breed had a 31.5% response rate (99/314) and it represented 0.72% of all returns (99/13,741).

Mortality data

A total of 125 deaths were reported and this represents 0.79% of all deaths reported in the survey (125/15,881). The median age at death for Tibetan Spaniels was 14 years and 5 months (min = 1 year and 6 months, max = 19 years and 1 month) and this was higher than the overall median of 11 years and 3 months (Figure 1). Table 1 shows the causes of death for Tibetan Spaniels. Age at death is presented for the most common causes of death (Figure 2).

Table 1. Causes of death by organ system/category for Tibetan Spaniels.

Cause of death	N	%	Most common specific causes in descending order
1 Old age	34	27.2	Old age
2 Cancer	29	23.2	Type unspecified (mammary, mouth); brain tumour
3 Cardiac	14	11.2	Heart failure; heart attack; arrhythmia; valvular endocarditis
4 Neurologic	6	4.8	Seizures; unspecified
5 Cerebral vascular	5	4.0	Stroke or cerebral vascular accident
6 Combinations	5	4.0	
7 Senility	5	4.0	
8 Trauma	4	3.2	Road traffic accident; unspecified
9 Urologic	4	3.2	Kidney failure
10 Behaviour	3	2.4	Aggression; unspecified
11 Other	3	2.4	Uncodeable
12 Perioperative	3	2.4	
13 Hepatic	2	1.6	Liver failure
14 Reproductive	2	1.6	Pyometra
15 Drowning	1	0.8	
16 Gastrointestinal	1	0.8	Unspecified
17 Immune mediated	1	0.8	Unspecified
18 Infection	1	0.8	Viral (unspecified)
19 Internal bleeding	1	0.8	
20 Unknown	1	0.8	
Total	125	100.0	

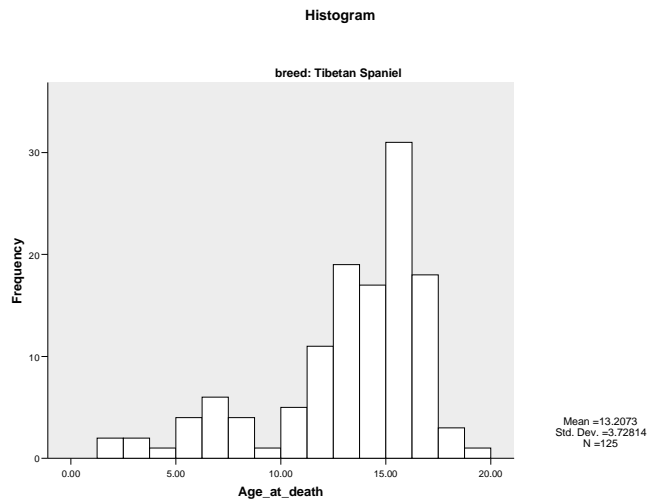


Figure 1. Histogram showing the frequency (as number of dogs) of age at death (in years) for the 125 Tibetan Spaniel deaths with age at death reported.

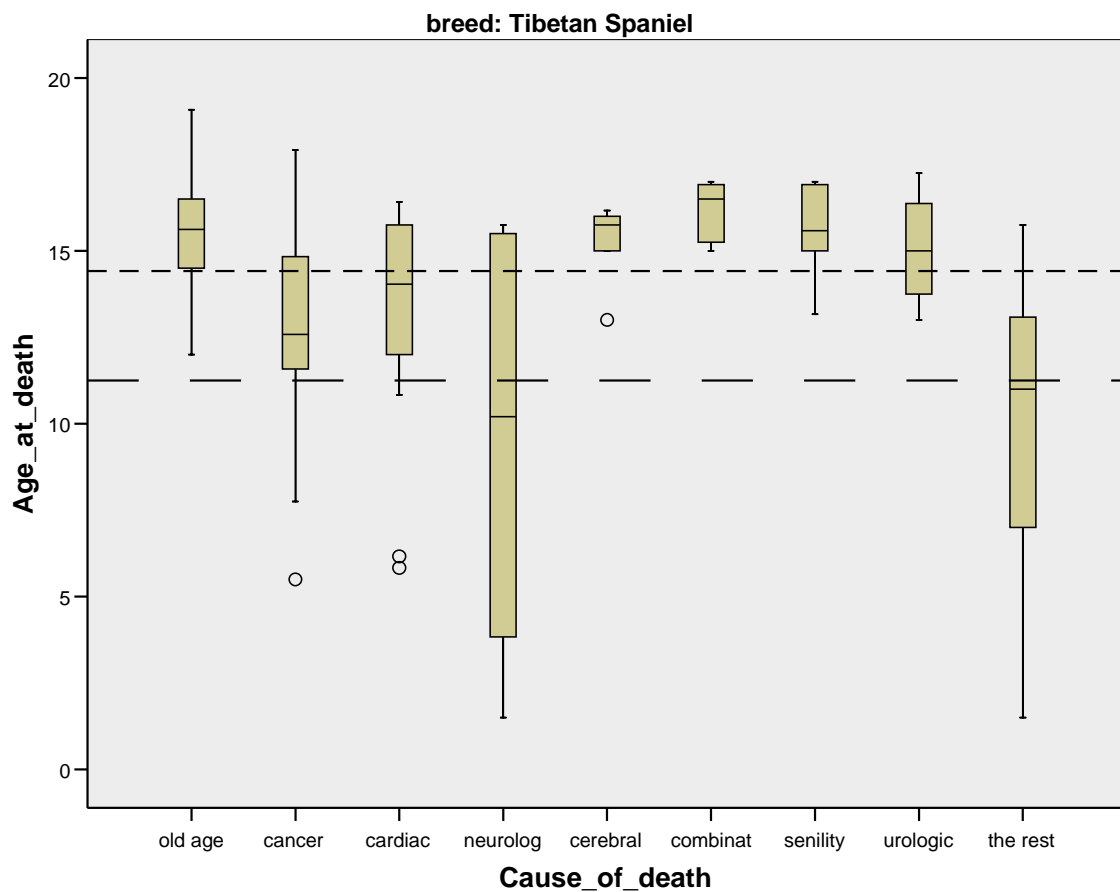


Figure 2. Box and whisker plot of age at death in years for the most common causes of death in Tibetan Spaniels (N=125). The dashed line (---) is the overall median age at death for all dogs in the survey and the dotted line (----) is the overall median age of death for Tibetan Spaniels. The solid line within each grey box represents the median age at death from the condition.

Morbidity data

The median current age of the 379 live dogs with a reported age was 6 years and 10 months (min=3 months, max=18 years, Figure 3). Health information was reported for 379 live dogs of which 250 (66%) were healthy and 129 (34%) had at least one reported health condition, resulting in a total of 194 reported conditions with a median of 1 condition/dog (min=1, max=5).

The median current age of all healthy dogs with a reported age (N=250) was 5 years and 11 months (min=3 months, max=18 years). 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=121) was 9 years and 5 months (min=6 months, max=16 years and 9 months). The median age at diagnosis for all disease occurrences with a reported age at diagnosis (N=180) was 5 years (min= 2 months, max= 15 years and 4 months, Figure 4). Table 3 shows the disease conditions for Tibetan Spaniels. Age at diagnosis is presented for the most common disease conditions (Figure 5).

Table 2. Distribution of gender and neuter status for 378 Tibetan Spaniels with reported gender and neuter status.

Gender	Neuter status		Totals
	Intact	Neutered	
Female	149	85	234 (62%)
Male	89	55	144 (38%)
Totals	238 (63%)	140 (37%)	378 (100%)

There was no association between gender and neuter status (P=0.7147).

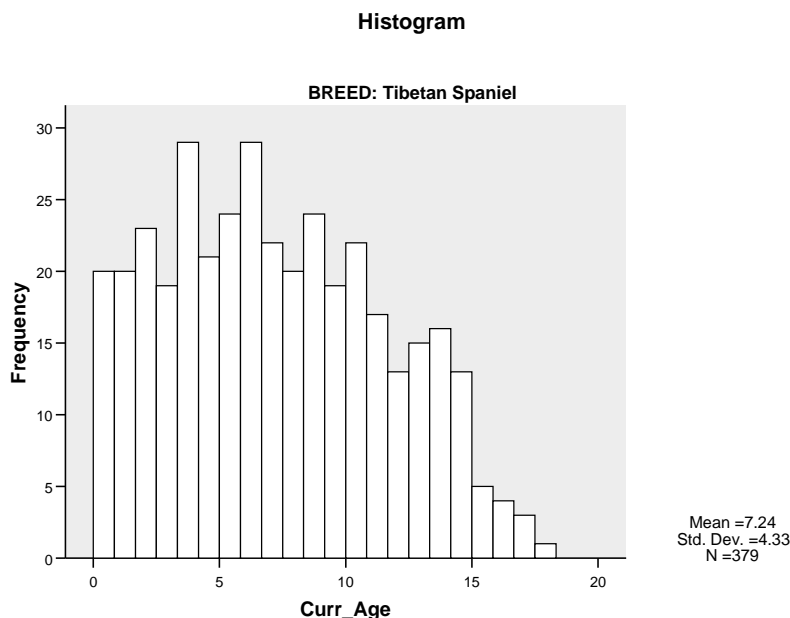


Figure 3. Histogram showing frequency of current age in years for the 379 live Tibetan Spaniels with age reported.

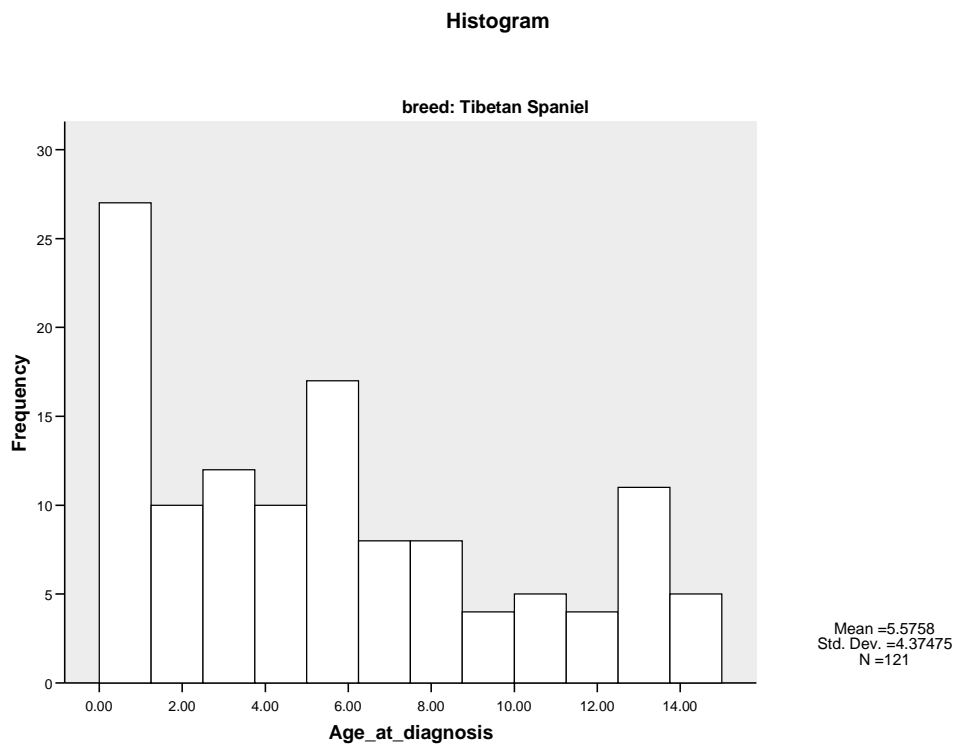


Figure 4. Histogram showing frequency of age at diagnosis for the 121 Tibetan Spaniels with one or more disease conditions, using the youngest age at which a disease condition was first reported for those dogs with more than one disease condition or episode.

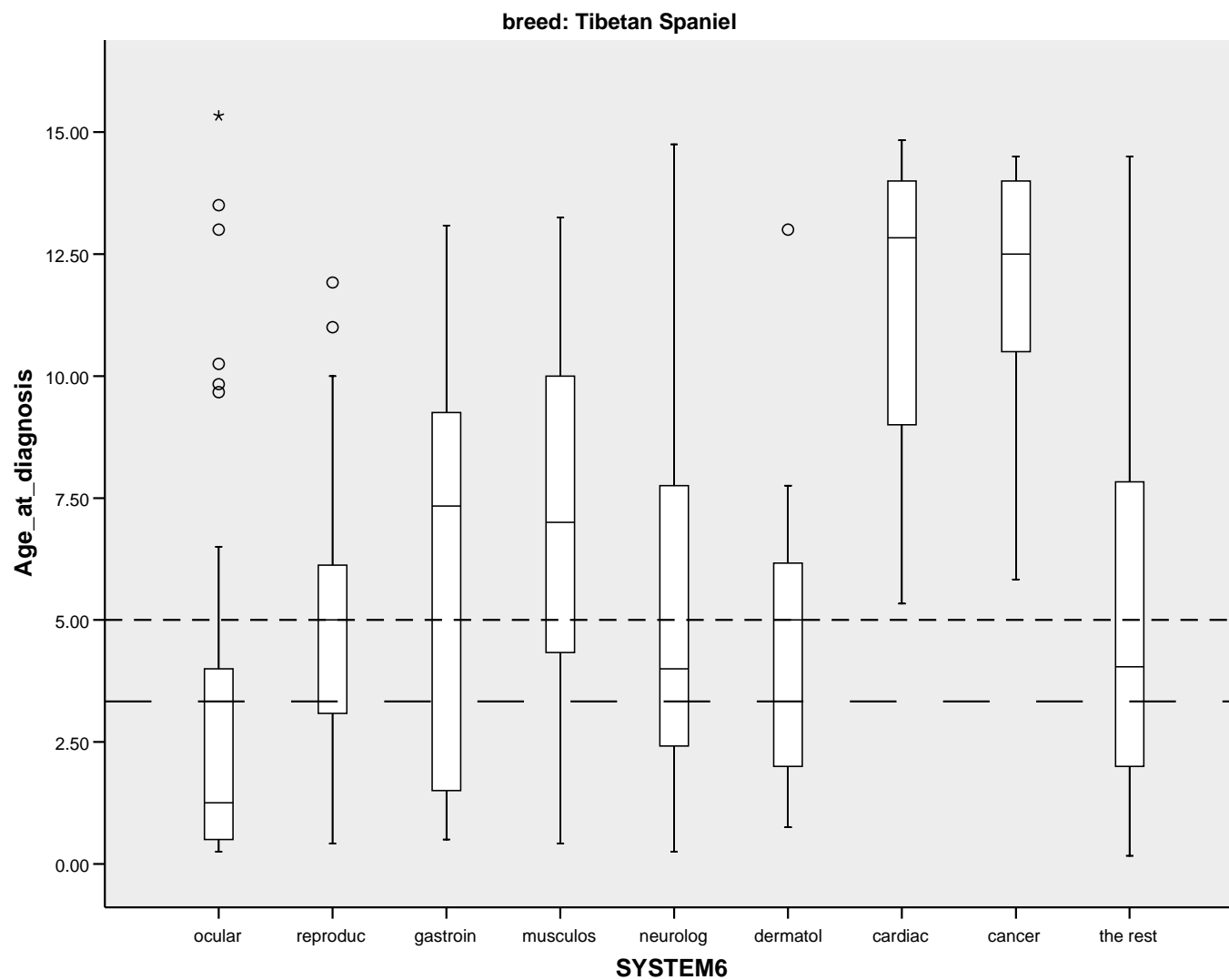


Figure 5. Box and whisker plot of age at diagnosis in years for the most common disease conditions in descending order for Tibetan Spaniels (N=121 dogs with 180 conditions with age reported). The dashed line (---) is the overall median age at diagnosis for all dogs in the survey and the dotted line (----) is the overall median age at diagnosis for Tibetan Spaniels. 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 Tibetan Spaniels.

Disease condition	All conditions		Most common specific conditions in descending order
	N	%	
1 Ocular	36	18.6	Cherry eye; distichiasis; epiphora; corneal ulcer; cataracts; trichiasis
2 Reproductive	21	10.8	Infertility; false pregnancy; dystochia (uterine inertia=physical blockage); irregular heat cycles
3 Gastrointestinal	17	8.8	Colitis; Gastric dilatation/volvulus (GDV); vomiting & diarrhoea; vomiting
4 Musculoskeletal	17	8.8	Patellar luxation; arthritis (hips>rest); CLR
5 Neurologic	17	8.8	IVDD (unspecified>thoracic); seizures; deafness (unspecified>bilateral=unilateral); GME
6 Dermatologic	15	7.7	Dermatitis; sebaceous cysts; fading nose pigment; pyotraumatic dermatitis
7 Cardiac	13	6.7	Heart murmur (unspecified>rest); arrhythmia; cardiomegaly; CHF; heart valve condition
8 Immune mediated	11	5.7	Flea allergy; food allergy; other allergy (unspecified); gluten-sensitive enteropathy
9 Dental	9	4.6	Retained puppy teeth; dental disease; extra teeth
10 Respiratory	8	4.1	Kennel cough
11 Cancer	6	3.1	Type unspecified (mammary; teat; jaw)
12 Benign neoplasia	5	2.6	Lipoma
13 Urologic	5	2.6	Cystouroliths (unspecified); cystitis; haematuria; incontinence
14 Unknown	4	2.1	Unknown; undiagnosed liver disease
15 Aural	3	1.5	Otitis externa; ear mites
16 Anal gland	2	1.0	Anal sacculitis
17 Endocrine	2	1.0	Hypothyroidism
18 Other	2	1.0	Uncodeable
19 Trauma	1	0.5	Spine
Total	194	100.0	

GME=granulomatous meningoencephalitis

CHF=congestive heart failure