

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

Summary results of the
Purebred Dog Health Survey
for Welsh Terriers

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%.

Welsh Terriers

A total of 238 forms were sent out and 66 were returned, representing 108 live dogs. This breed had a 27.7% response rate (66/238) and it represented 0.48% of all returns (66/13,741).

Mortality data

A total of 23 deaths were reported and this represents 0.14% of all deaths reported in the survey (23/15,881). The median age at death for Welsh Terriers was 12 years and 8 months (min = 6 months, max = 18 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 Welsh Terriers. Age at death is presented for the most common causes of death (Figure 2).

Table 1. Causes of death by organ system/category for Welsh Terriers.

Cause of death	N	%	Most common specific causes in descending order
1 Cancer	10	43.5	Type unspecified
2 Old age	5	21.7	Old age
3 Cerebral vascular	2	8.7	Stroke or cerebral vascular accident
4 Gastrointestinal	1	4.3	Pancreatitis
5 Hepatic	1	4.3	Liver failure
6 Perioperative	1	4.3	
7 Reproductive	1	4.3	Pyometra
8 Trauma	1	4.3	Road traffic accident
9 Urologic	1	4.3	Kidney failure
Total	23	100.0	

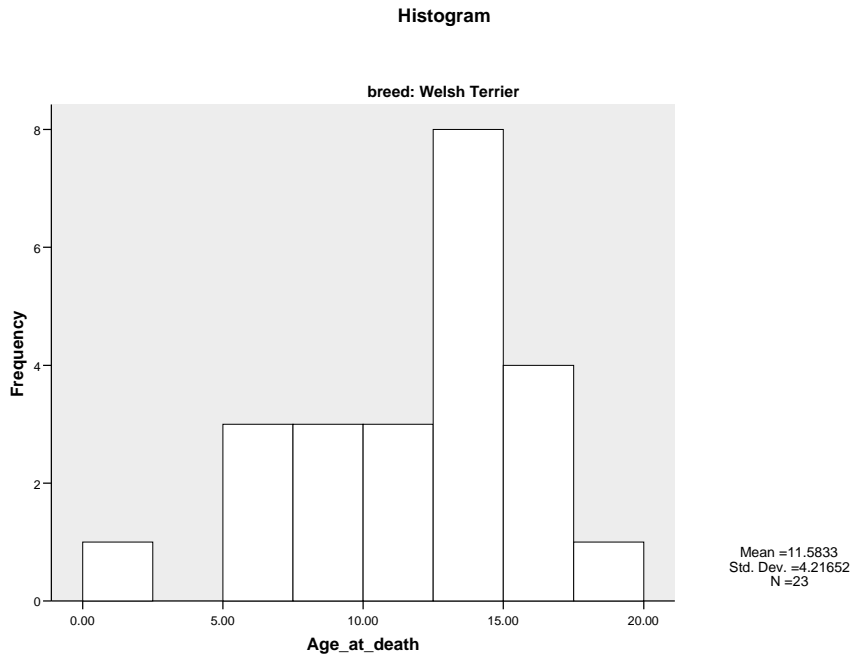


Figure 1. Histogram showing the frequency (as number of dogs) of age at death (in years) for the 23 Welsh Terrier deaths with age at death reported.

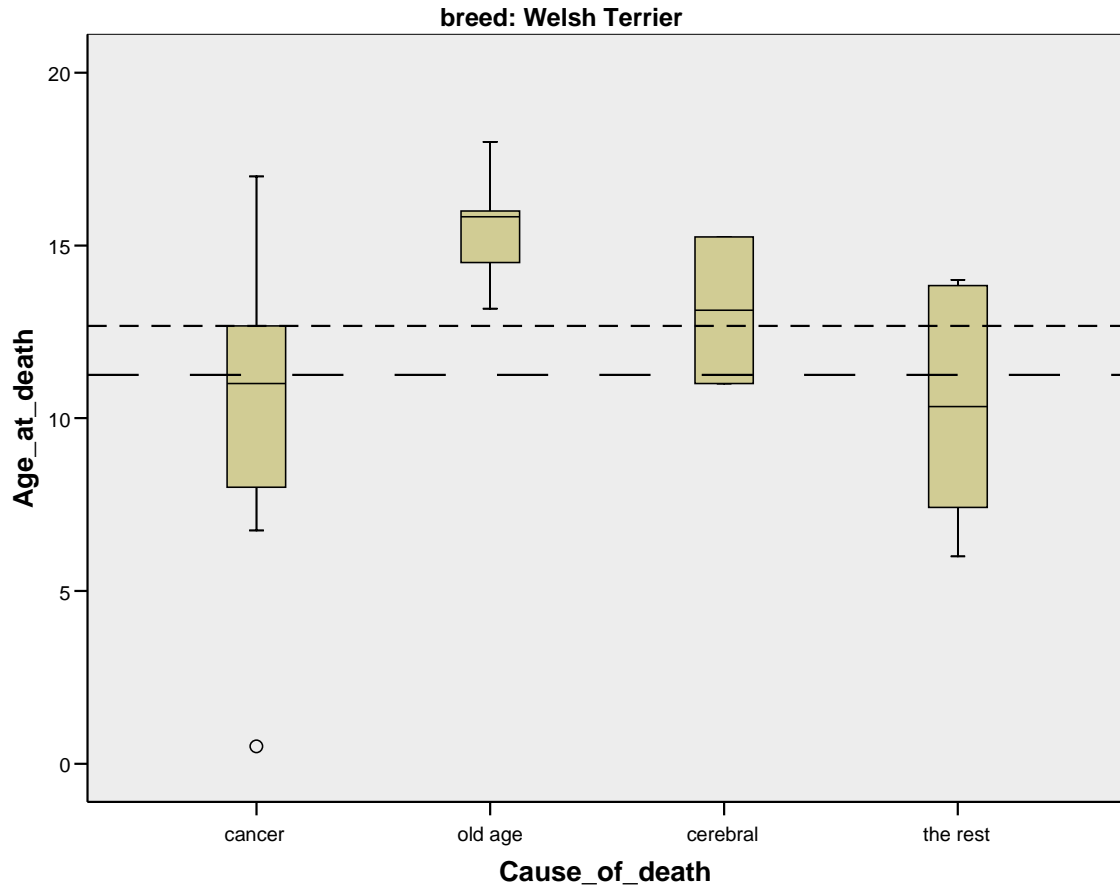


Figure 2. Box and whisker plot of age at death in years for the most common causes of death in Welsh Terriers (N=23). The dashed line (---) is the overall median age at death for all dogs in the survey and the dotted line (----) is the overall median age of death for Welsh Terriers. The solid line within each grey box represents the median age at death from the condition.

Morbidity data

The median current age of the 108 live dogs with a reported age was 3 years and 11 months (min=3 months, max=14 years and 9 months, Figure 3). Health information was reported for 108 live dogs of which 73 (68%) were healthy and 35 (32%) had at least one reported health condition, resulting in a total of 64 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=73) was 2 years and 8 months (min=3 months, max=12 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=31) was 5 years and 6 months (min=6 months, max=14 years and 9 months). The median age at diagnosis for all disease occurrences with a reported age at diagnosis (N=60) was 2 years and 3 months (min= 2 months, max= 13 years, Figure 4). Table 3 shows the disease conditions for Welsh Terriers. Age at diagnosis is presented for the most common disease conditions (Figure 5).

Table 2. Distribution of gender and neuter status for 107 Welsh Terriers with reported gender and neuter status.

Gender	Neuter status		Totals
	Intact	Neutered	
Female	50	17	67 (63%)
Male	26	14	40 (37%)
Totals	76 (71%)	31 (29%)	107 (100%)

There was no association between gender and neuter status (P=0.2882).

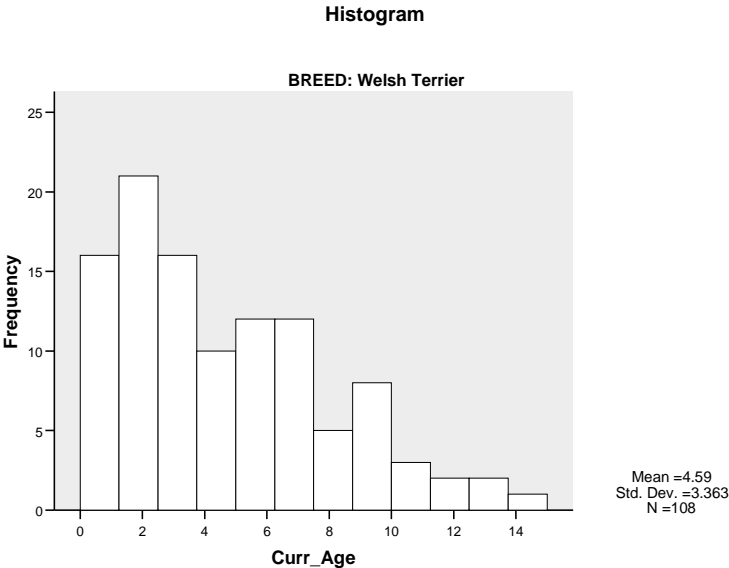


Figure 3. Histogram showing frequency of current age in years for the 108 live Welsh Terriers with age reported.

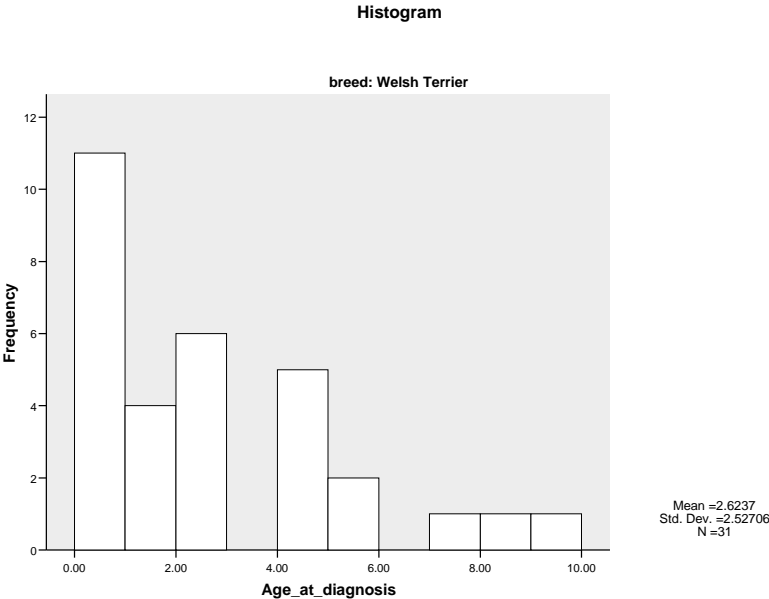


Figure 4. Histogram showing frequency of age at diagnosis for the 31 Welsh Terriers with one or more disease conditions, using the youngest age at which a disease condition was first reported for those dogs with more than one disease condition or episode.

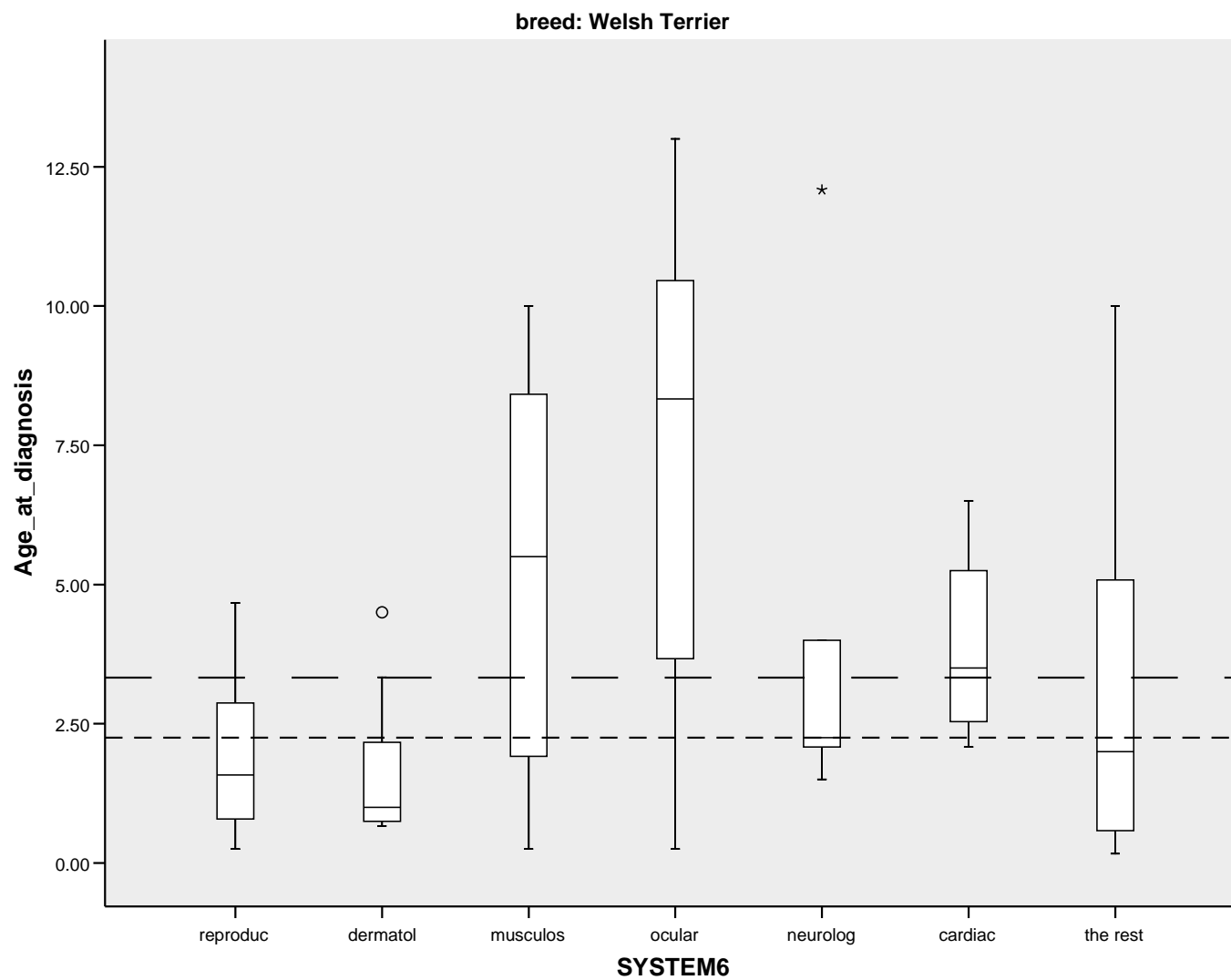


Figure 5. Box and whisker plot of age at diagnosis in years for the most common disease conditions in descending order for Welsh Terriers (N=31 dogs with 60 conditions with age reported). The dashed line (---) is the overall median age at diagnosis for all dogs in the survey and the dotted line (----) is the overall median age at diagnosis for Welsh Terriers. 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 Welsh Terriers.

Disease condition	All conditions		Most common specific conditions in descending order
	N	%	
1 Reproductive	14	21.9	False pregnancy; infertility; cryptorchid; pyometra; difficulty whelping; polycystic ovaries
2 Dermatologic	7	10.9	Dermatitis; mites (demodex)
3 Musculoskeletal	7	10.9	CLR; strain or sprain; arthritis (forelimb; spine); lameness (hindlimb)
4 Ocular	7	10.9	Cataracts; glaucoma; conjunctivitis; KCS; entropion
5 Gastrointestinal	5	7.8	Campylobacter; colitis; diarrhoea; vomiting & diarrhoea; other (unspecified)
6 Neurologic	5	7.8	Seizures; deafness; secondary seizures (brain trauma); Shaker syndrome
7 Aural	4	6.3	Otitis externa; excessive ear wax
8 Cardiac	4	6.3	Heart murmur (unspecified=grade 1)
9 Immune mediated	2	3.1	Atopy; other allergy (unspecified)
10 Respiratory	2	3.1	Chylothorax; kennel cough
11 Other	2	3.1	Uncodeable
12 Urologic	2	3.1	Cystitis; cystouroliths (struvite)
13 Benign neoplasia	1	1.6	Adenoma (anal)
14 Cancer	1	1.6	Carcinoma (mammary)
15 Dental	1	1.6	Dental disease
Total	64	100.0	