



**THE KENNEL CLUB
DOG HEALTH**

Australian Shepherd

Pedigree Breed Health Survey

Forms were received representing 71 living dogs & 8 deceased dogs.

Mortality results

A total of 8 deaths were reported, representing 0.14% of all deaths reported in the Pedigree Breed Health survey. The range of longevity for Australian Shepherd was 1 year to 10 years. Table 1 shows the causes of death for the breed. Age at death is presented for the most common causes in Figure 2.

Table 1 The causes of death/reasons for euthanasia for all breeds (N = 8 deceased dogs).

Cause of death
Old Age
Hip dysplasia
Gastroenteritis
Brain tumour
Bone tumour
Aggression

Morbidity results

The 71 live Australian Shepherds represented 35.21% of total dogs in the survey. The median age of live dogs for the breed was 5 years (Table 2). Of the 71 Australian Shepherd which the survey covers, 46 had reported no conditions and 25 reported affected by at least one condition (min = 1 condition(s), max = 4 conditions), giving a total of 39 incidents of conditions.

The gender, neuter status and age of neutering summary statistics for Australian Shepherds are shown in Table 3. There were 60 dogs with responses for Body Condition displayed in Table 4.

The median age the dogs were first affected by a condition was 4 years (min = 0 years, max= 12 years, Figure 3). The ages for the most common conditions is displayed in Figure 4. Table 5 shows the frequency of occurrence of all reported disease conditions for the Australian Shepherd.

Table 2: The summary statistics for the dogs' current age when survey was completed

Number of Dogs	Mean age (years)	Median age (years)	Min age (years)	Max age (years)
71	5.62	5	0	14

Table 3: Gender, neuter status and age summary statistics for dogs where gender and neuter status was reported

Sex	Neuter status	Age known	Count	Mean age neutered (years)	Median age neutered (years)	Min age neutered (years)	Max age neutered (years)
Female	Neutered	Yes	14	2.43	1.5	0	12
Female	Not neutered	No	18	NA	NA	NA	NA
Female	Unknown	No	3	NA	NA	NA	NA
Male	Neutered	Yes	20	2.7	2	0	10
Male	Neutered	No	1	NA	NA	NA	NA
Male	Not neutered	No	14	NA	NA	NA	NA
Male	Unknown	No	1	NA	NA	NA	NA

Table 4: The body condition comment and the age of the dog when this comment was made

Body condition	Count	Mean age (years)	Median age (years)	Min age (years)	Max age (years)
No comment was made by vet	4	7.25	7.5	2	12
Normal	43	4.74	4	0	14
Somewhat overweight	8	6.38	7.5	1	10
Somewhat underweight	5	3.00	4	0	5

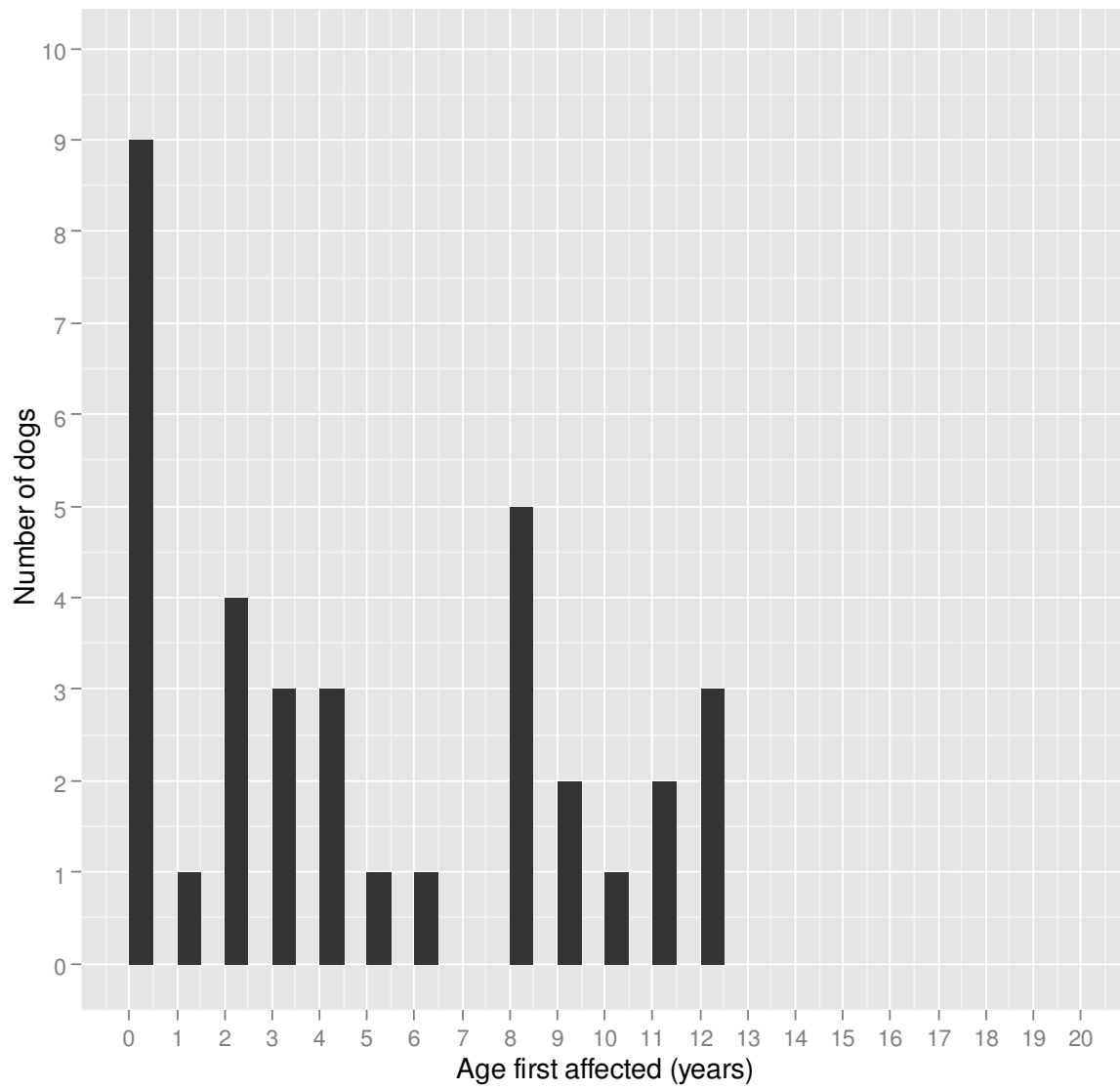


Figure 3: Histogram showing frequency of known age at diagnosis for the disease conditions reported

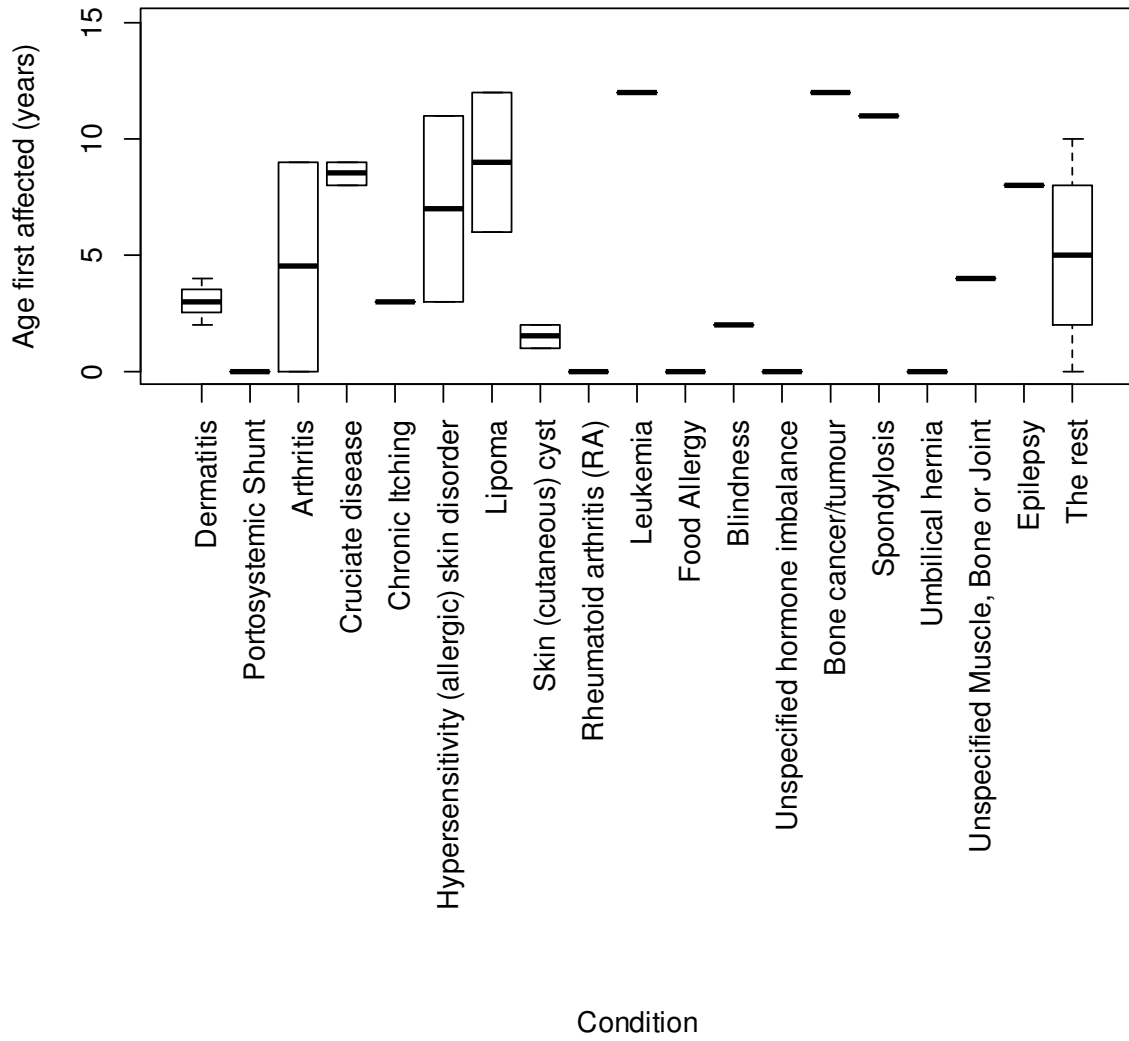


Figure 4: Box and whisker plot of age at diagnosis in years for the most common disease conditions in descending order. The solid line within each box represents the median age at diagnosis from the condition. The box represents 50% of the dogs and the whiskers represent 95% of the dogs for each condition. The circles (o) represent possible outliers

Table 5: The most commonly reported disease conditions in descending order for the breed (N = 71 live dogs)

Condition	Number of cases of disease	Proportion (%)	Prevalence (%)
Dermatitis	3	7.69	4.23
Arthritis	2	5.13	2.82
Chronic Itching	2	5.13	2.82
Cruciate disease	2	5.13	2.82
Hypersensitivity (allergic) skin disorder	2	5.13	2.82
Lipoma	2	5.13	2.82
Portosystemic Shunt	2	5.13	2.82
Skin (cutaneous) cyst	2	5.13	2.82
Blindness	1	2.56	1.41
Bone cancer/tumour	1	2.56	1.41
Epilepsy	1	2.56	1.41
Epulis	1	2.56	1.41
Food Allergy	1	2.56	1.41
Hypothyroidism/Under-active thyroid	1	2.56	1.41
Lameness	1	2.56	1.41
Leukemia	1	2.56	1.41
Mammary lump	1	2.56	1.41
Mastitis (breast inflammation or infection)	1	2.56	1.41
Multi-Drug Resistance Gene (MDR1)	1	2.56	1.41
Oral (mouth) cancer/tumour	1	2.56	1.41

Proportion of morbidity as %= N/39 disease conditions, prevalence %= N/71 live dogs

Summary

From the dogs surveyed, most Australian Shepherds were not affected by a disease condition (64.79%). The most commonly reported disease condition in live dogs was dermatitis. The most commonly reported cause of death was old age.