



## THE KENNEL CLUB DOG HEALTH

### **Belgian Shepherd Dog (Groenendael)**

#### **Pedigree Breed Health Survey**

Forms were received representing 56 living dogs & 15 deceased dogs.

#### **Mortality results**

A total of 15 deaths were reported, representing 0.27% of all deaths reported in the Pedigree Breed Health survey. The range of ages for the Belgian Shepherd Dog (Groenendael) was 2 years to 15 years. Table 1 shows the causes of death for the breed.

**Table 1** The causes of death/reasons for euthanasia (N = 15 deceased dogs)

Cause of death
Cancer - unspecified
Gastric tumour
Old Age
Brain tumour
Lymphoma
Old Age combinations
Spinal trauma
Splenic tumour
Traumatic Injury
Unknown

#### **Morbidity results**

The 56 live Belgian Shepherd Dog (Groenendael)s represented 0.13% of total dogs in the survey. The median age of live dogs for the breed was 6 years (Table 2). Of the 56 Belgian Shepherd Dog (Groenendael) which the survey covers, 37 had reported no conditions and 19 reported affected by at least one condition (min = 1 condition(s), max = 5 conditions), giving a total of 34 incidents of conditions.

The gender, neuter status and age of neutering summary statistics for Belgian Shepherd Dog (Groenendael)'s are shown in Table 3. There were 46 dogs with responses for Body Condition displayed in Table 4.

The median age the dogs were first affected by a condition was 2 years (min = 0 years, max= 14 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 Belgian Shepherd Dog (Groenendael).

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

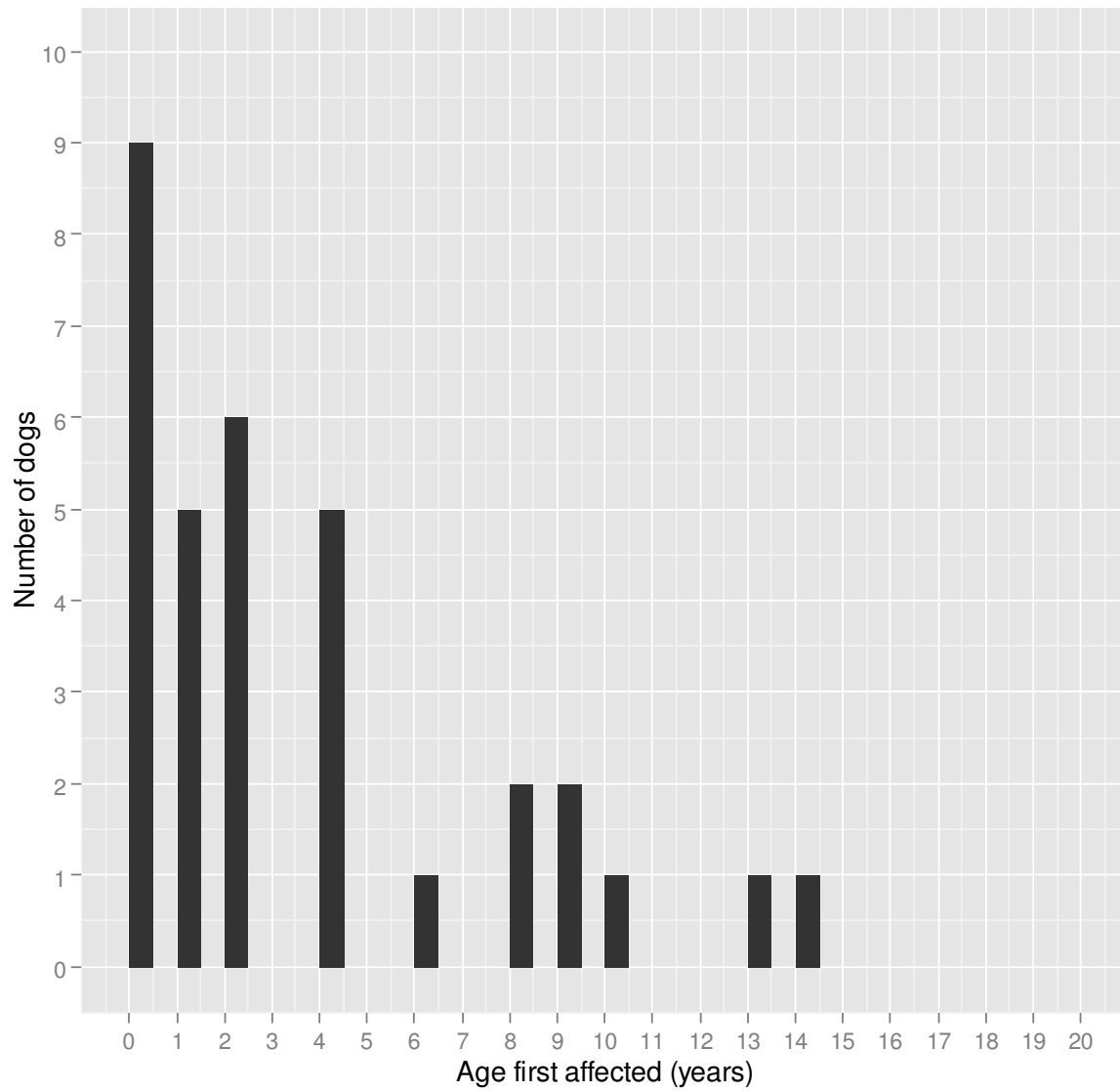
Number of Dogs	Mean age (years)	Median age (years)	Min age (years)	Max age (years)
56	6.39	6	1	17

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

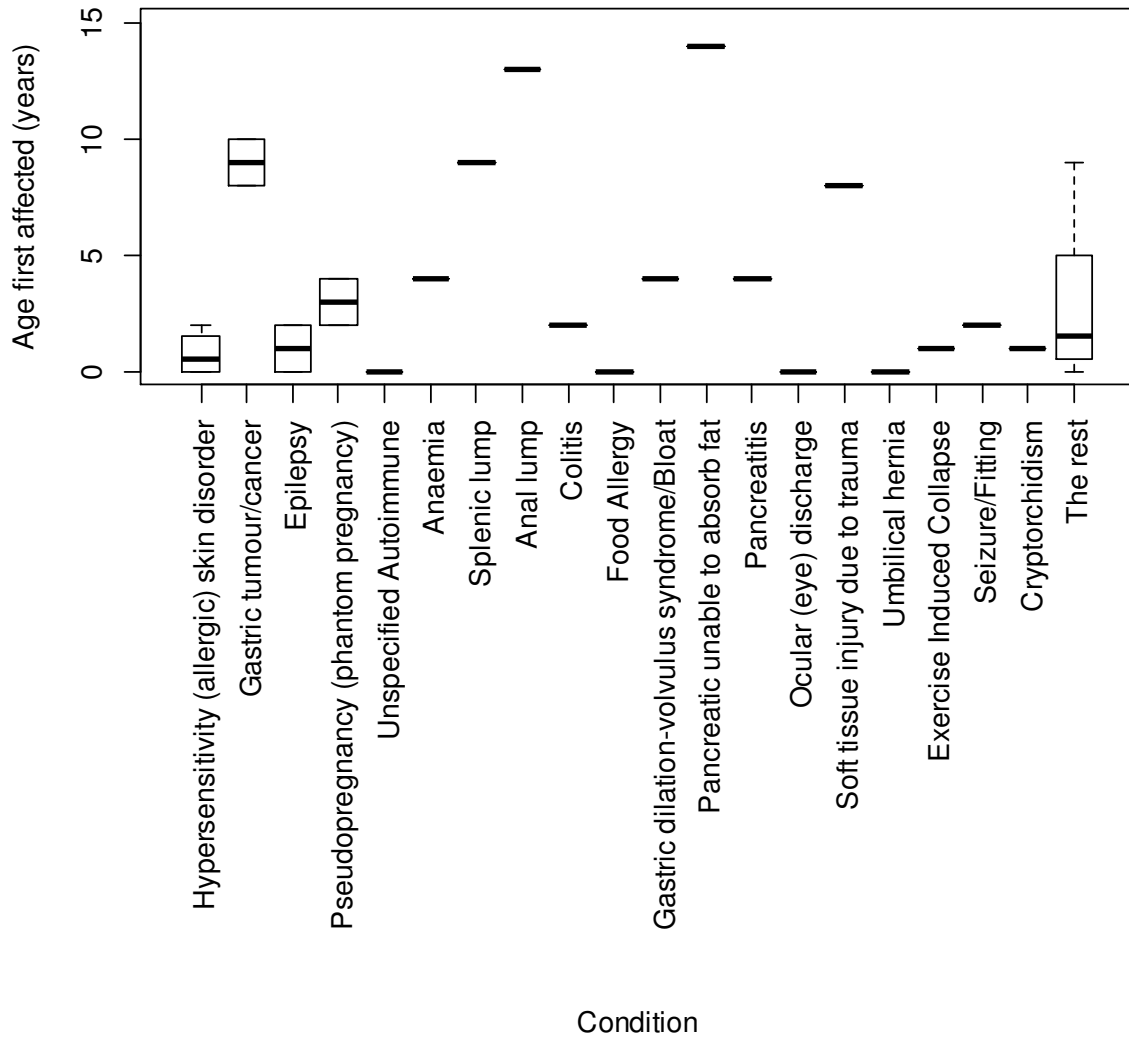
Sex	Neuter status	Age known	Count	Mean age neutered (years)	Median age neutered (years)	Min age neutered (years)
Female	Neutered	Yes	17	2.06	2	0
Female	Not neutered	No	11	NA	NA	NA
Female	Unknown	No	1	NA	NA	NA
Male	Neutered	Yes	7	4.00	3	1
Male	Not neutered	No	14	NA	NA	NA
Male	Unknown	No	7	NA	NA	NA

**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	7	4.43	4	2	7
Normal	31	5.39	6	0	14
Somewhat overweight	4	7.75	8	4	11
Somewhat underweight	3	3.33	4	2	4
Very underweight	1	8.00	8	8	8



**Figure 3:** Histogram showing frequency of 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 = 56 live dogs)

Condition	Number of cases of disease	Proportion (%)	Prevalence (%)
Hypersensitivity (allergic) skin disorder	4	11.76	7.14
Epilepsy	2	5.88	3.57
Gastric tumour/cancer	2	5.88	3.57
Pseudopregnancy (phantom pregnancy)	2	5.88	3.57
Anaemia	1	2.94	1.79
Anal lump	1	2.94	1.79
Chronic Itching	1	2.94	1.79
Colitis	1	2.94	1.79
Cryptorchidism	1	2.94	1.79
Exercise Induced Collapse	1	2.94	1.79
Food Allergy	1	2.94	1.79
Gastric dilation-volvulus syndrome (GDV) / Bloat	1	2.94	1.79
Infertility	1	2.94	1.79
Mammary cancer/tumour	1	2.94	1.79
Meningitis	1	2.94	1.79
Ocular (eye) discharge	1	2.94	1.79
Pancreatic unable to absorb fat	1	2.94	1.79
Pancreatitis	1	2.94	1.79
Pyoderma	1	2.94	1.79
Seizure/Fitting	1	2.94	1.79

Proportion of morbidity as %= N/34 disease conditions, prevalence %= N/56 live dogs

### **Summary**

From the dogs surveyed, most Belgian Shepherd Dog (Groenendael)s were not affected by a disease condition (66.07%). The most commonly reported disease condition in live dogs was Hypersensitivity (allergic) skin disorder. The most commonly reported cause of death was unspecified cancer & gastric tumour.