



**THE KENNEL CLUB  
DOG HEALTH**

**Belgian Shepherd Dog (Tervueren)**

**Pedigree Breed Health Survey**

Forms were received representing 88 living dogs & 22 deceased dogs.

**Mortality results**

A total of 22 deaths were reported, representing 0.39% of all deaths reported in the Pedigree Breed Health survey. The range of longevity for the Belgian Shepherd Dog (Tervueren) was 2 years to 14 years. Table 1 shows the causes of death for the breed.

**Table 1** The causes of death/reasons for euthanasia (N = 22 deceased dogs).

<b>Cause of death</b>
Cancer - unspecified
Gastric tumour
Bone tumour
Old Age combinations
Blood vessel tumour (Haemangiosarcoma)
Brain tumour
Cardiac heart Failure
Liver Failure
Old Age
Pancreatic tumour
Pyometra
Senile dementia/ cognitive dysfunction
Surgical complications
Unknown

**Morbidity results**

The 88 live Belgian Shepherd Dogs (Tervueren) represented 0.20% of total dogs in the survey. The median age of live dogs for the breed was 6 years (Table 2). Of the 88 Belgian Shepherd Dogs (Tervueren) which the survey covers, 62 had reported no conditions and 26 reported affected by at least one condition (min = 1 condition(s), max = 7 conditions), giving a total of 42 incidents of conditions.

The gender, neuter status and age of neutering summary statistics for Belgian Shepherd Dogs (Tervueren) are shown in Table 3. There were 67 dogs with responses for Body Condition displayed in Table 4.

The median age the dogs were first affected by a condition was 11 years (min = 2 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 (Tervueren).

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

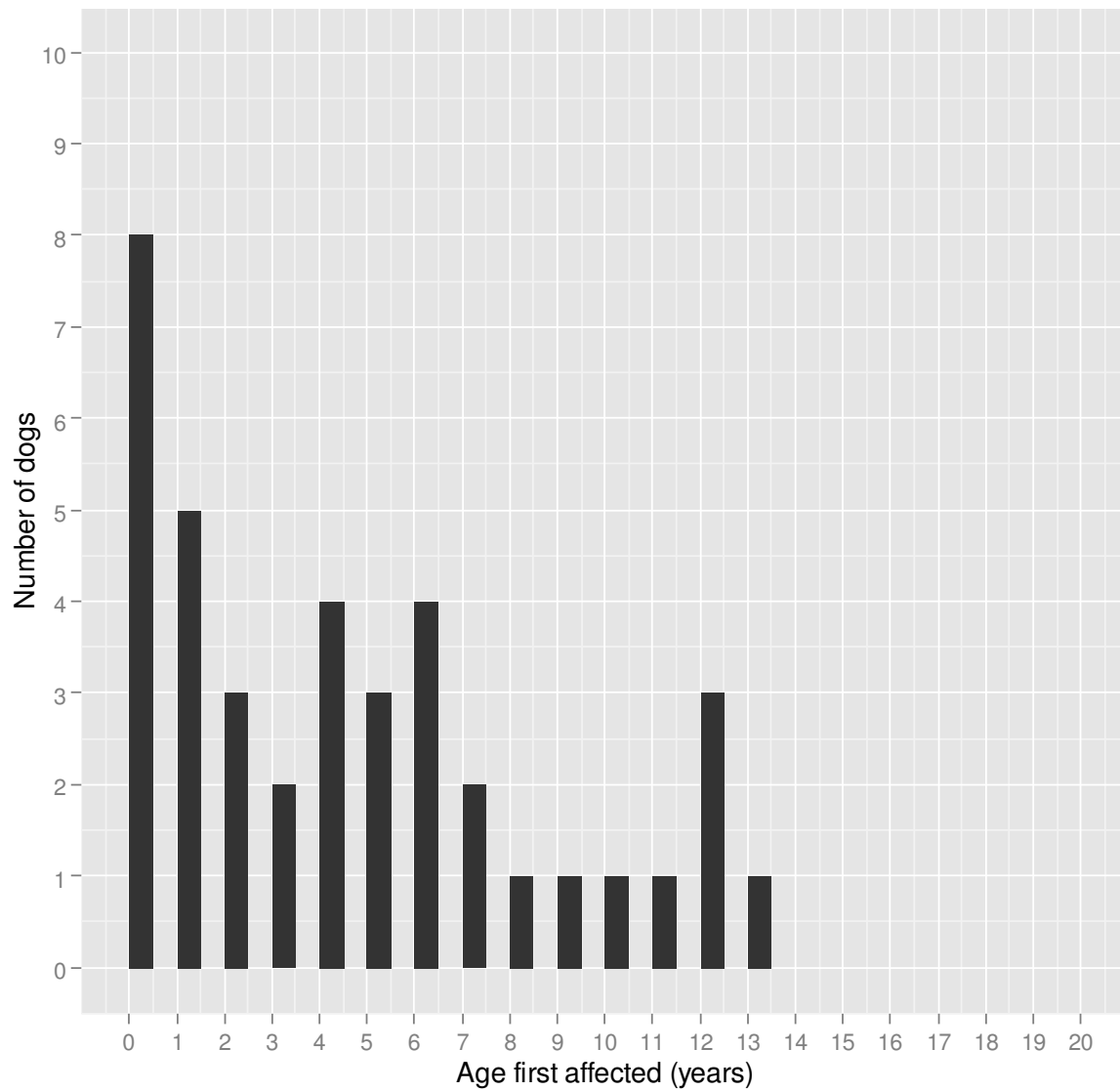
Number of Dogs	Mean age (years)	Median age (years)	Min age (years)	Max age (years)
88	5.99	6	0	14

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

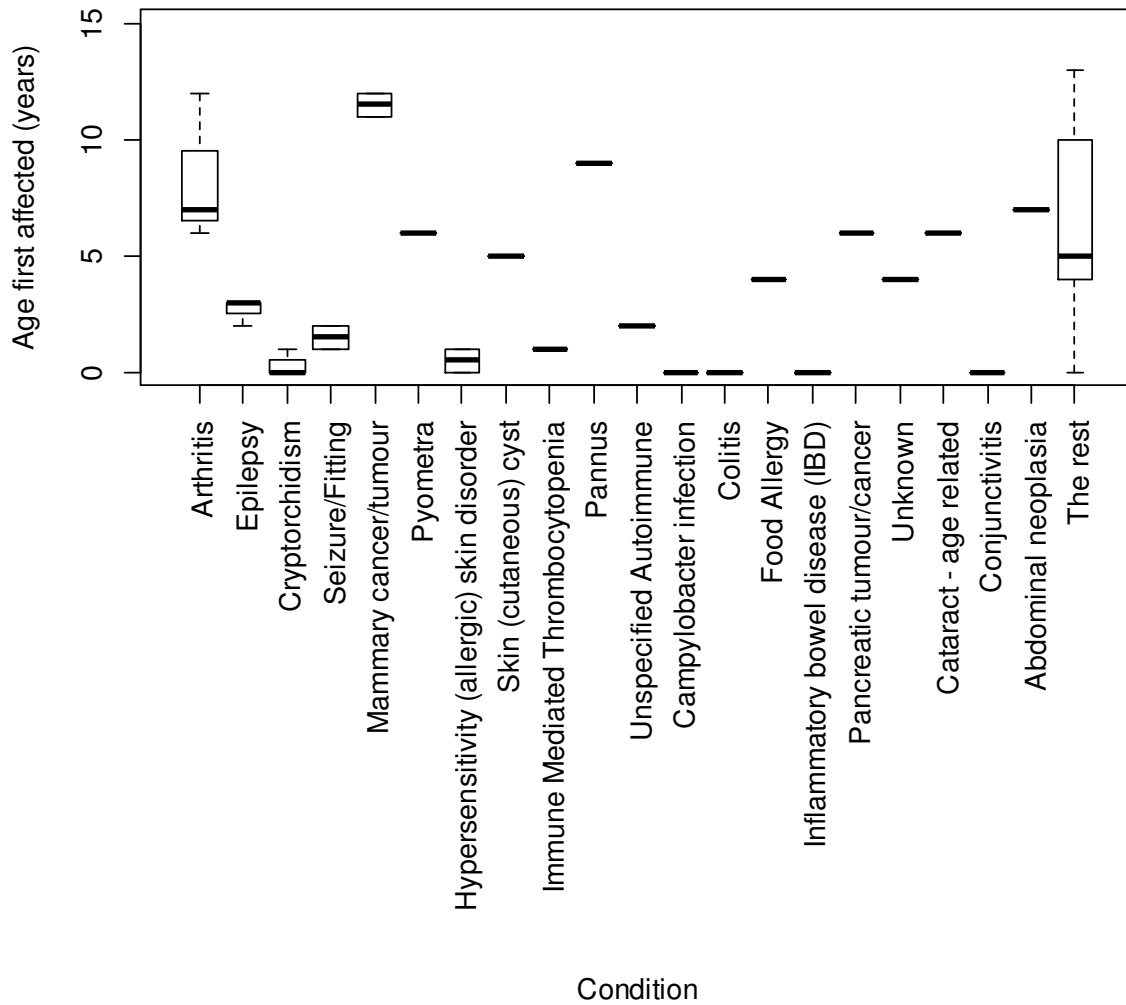
Sex	Neuter status	Age known	Count	Mean age neutered (years)	Median age neutered (years)	Min age neutered (years)
Female	Neutered	Yes	27	3.74	3	0
Female	Not neutered	No	15	NA	NA	NA
Female	Unknown	No	3	NA	NA	NA
Male	Neutered	Yes	18	2.11	2	0
Male	Not neutered	No	24	NA	NA	NA
Male	Unknown	No	1	NA	NA	NA

**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	3	2.67	2	2	4
Normal	62	5.15	4	0	14
Somewhat overweight	1	12.00	12	12	12
Somewhat underweight	1	6.00	6	6	6



**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 = 88 live dogs)

Condition	Number of cases of disease	Proportion (%)	Prevalence (%)
Arthritis	3	7.14	3.41
Cryptorchidism	3	7.14	3.41
Epilepsy	3	7.14	3.41
Hypersensitivity (allergic) skin disorder	2	4.76	2.27
Mammary cancer/tumour	2	4.76	2.27
Pyometra	2	4.76	2.27
Seizure/Fitting	2	4.76	2.27
Skin (cutaneous) cyst	2	4.76	2.27
Abdominal neoplasia	1	2.38	1.14
Blood present in urine	1	2.38	1.14
Bone cancer/tumour	1	2.38	1.14
Campylobacter infection	1	2.38	1.14
Cataract - age related	1	2.38	1.14
Chronic Itching	1	2.38	1.14
Colitis	1	2.38	1.14
Conjunctivitis	1	2.38	1.14
Deafness - partial	1	2.38	1.14
Food Allergy	1	2.38	1.14
Immune Mediated Thrombocytopenia	1	2.38	1.14
Inflammatory bowel disease (IBD)	1	2.38	1.14

Proportion of morbidity as %= N/42 disease conditions, prevalence %= N/88 live dogs

### **Summary**

From the dogs surveyed, most Belgian Shepherd Dogs (Tervueren) were not affected by a disease condition (70.45%). There were three most common conditions affecting an equal proportion of live dogs; these were Arthritis, Cryptorchidism and Epilepsy. The most commonly reported cause of death was unspecified cancer.