

German Shepherd Dog

Pedigree Breed Health Survey

Forms were received representing 1,410 living dogs & 279 deceased dogs.

Mortality results

A total of 279 deaths were reported, representing 4.97% of all deaths reported in the Pedigree Breed Health survey. The median longevity for the German Shepherd Dog was 10 years (Figure 1). 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 twenty most common causes of death/reasons for euthanasia (N = 279 deceased dogs).

Cause of death	Number of cases	Proportion (%)
Old Age	36	12.90
Unknown	26	9.32
Cancer - unspecified	21	7.53
Myelopathy	18	6.45
Old Age combinations	13	4.66
Splenic tumour	12	4.30
Aggression	9	3.23
Gastric dilation-volvulus syndrome GDV Bloat	9	3.23
Kidney Failure	9	3.23
Hip dysplasia	8	2.87
Cardiomyopathy	7	2.51
Hepatic liver tumour	7	2.51
Cardiac heart Failure	6	2.15
Epilepsy	6	2.15
Bone tumour	5	1.79
Surgical complications	5	1.79
Arthritis	4	1.43
Brain tumour	4	1.43
Herniated vertebrae	4	1.43
Lymphoma	4	1.43

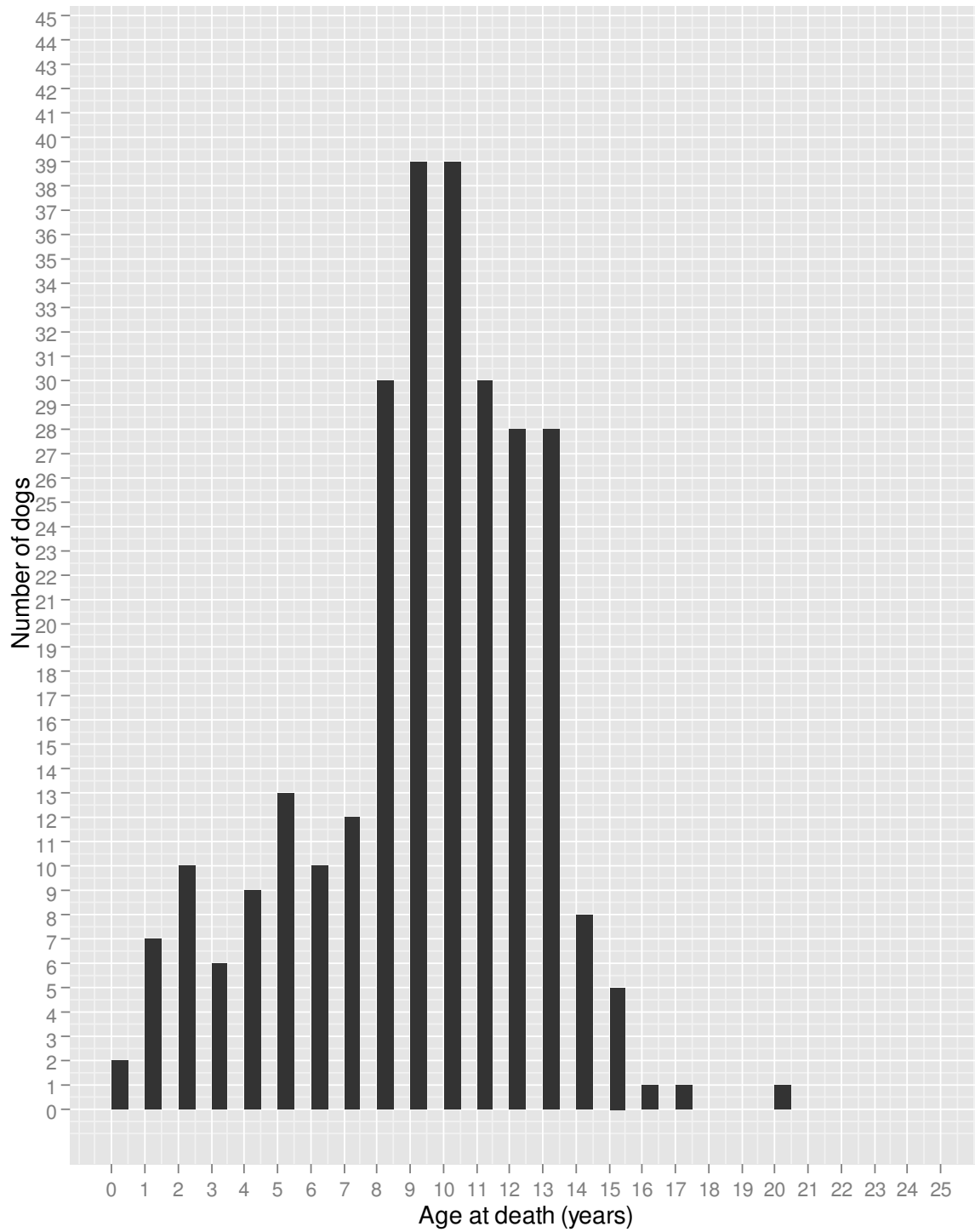


Figure 1: Histogram of the longevity for 279 reported deaths: overall median age at death was 10 years (minimum= 0 years, maximum= 20 years); mean age at death was 9.11 years

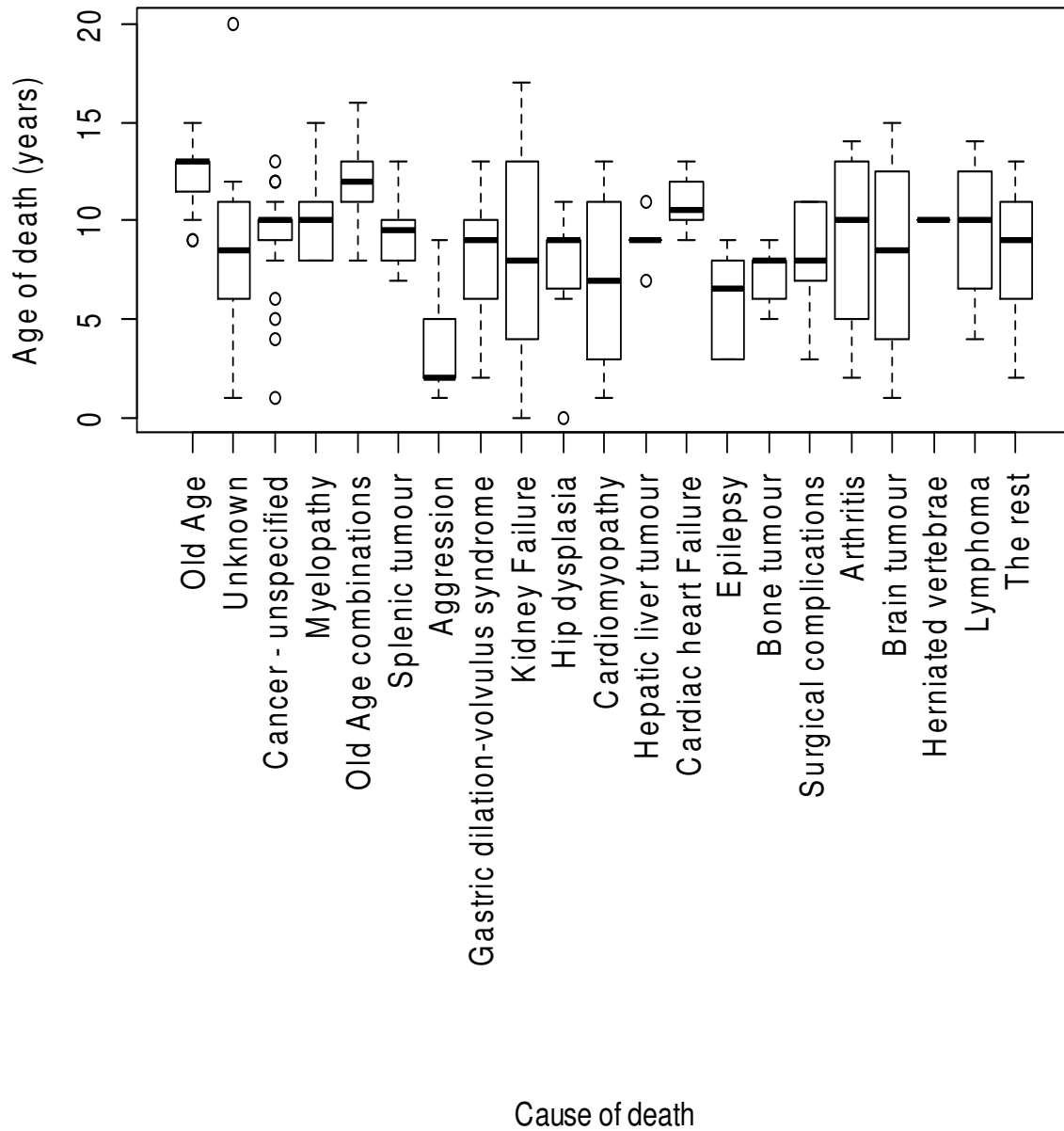


Figure 2: Box and whisker plot of age at death in years for the twenty most common causes of death (N=279). The solid line within each box represents the median age of death from the condition. The box represents 50% of the dogs and the whiskers represent 95% of the dogs for each condition. The circles (o) represent possible outliers

Morbidity results

The 1,410 live German Shepherd Dogs represented 3.28% of total dogs in the survey. The median age of live dogs for the breed was 4 years (Table 2). Of the 1,410 German Shepherd Dogs which the survey covers, 870 had reported no conditions and 540 reported affected by at least one condition (min = 1 condition(s), max = 12 conditions), giving a total of 1020 incidents of conditions.

The gender, neuter status and age of neutering summary statistics for German Shepherd Dogs are shown in Table 3. There were 1201 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= 13 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 German Shepherd Dog.

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)
1410	4.59	4	0	24

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	438	1.36	1	0	12
Female	Neutered	No	8	NA	NA	NA	NA
Female	Not neutered	No	253	NA	NA	NA	NA
Female	Unknown	No	30	NA	NA	NA	NA
Male	Neutered	Yes	326	1.19	1	0	10
Male	Neutered	No	6	NA	NA	NA	NA
Male	Not neutered	No	320	NA	NA	NA	NA
Male	Unknown	No	29	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 comment made (years)	Median age comment made (years)	Min age comment made (years)	Max age comment made (years)
No comment was made by vet	79	4.33	4	0	12
Normal	1025	3.75	3	0	14
Somewhat overweight	49	5.47	6	0	10
Somewhat underweight	44	2.55	2	0	10
very overweight	1	6.00	6	6	6
Very underweight	3	1.67	2	0	3

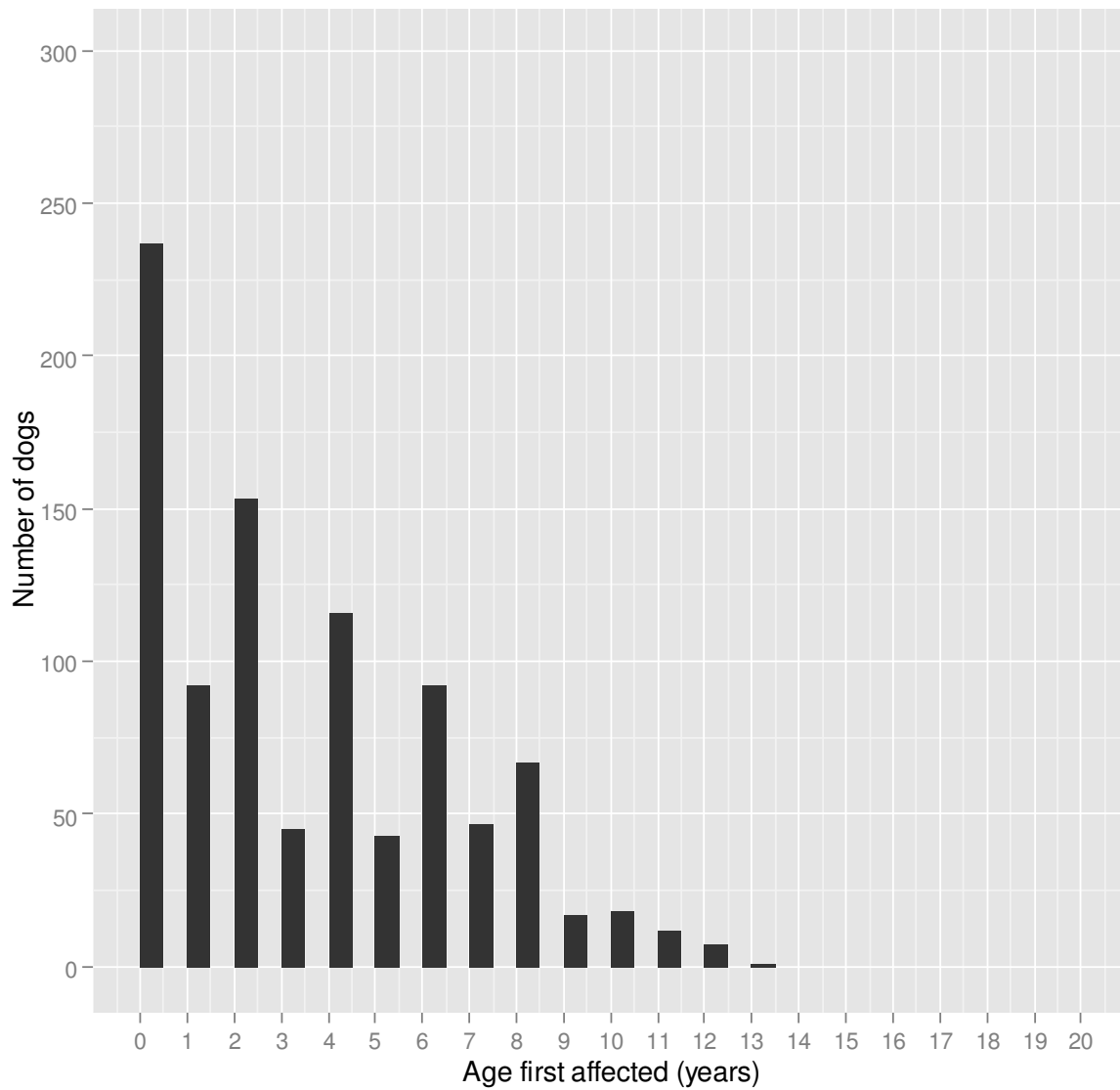


Figure 3: Histogram showing frequency of known age at diagnosis for the disease conditions reported

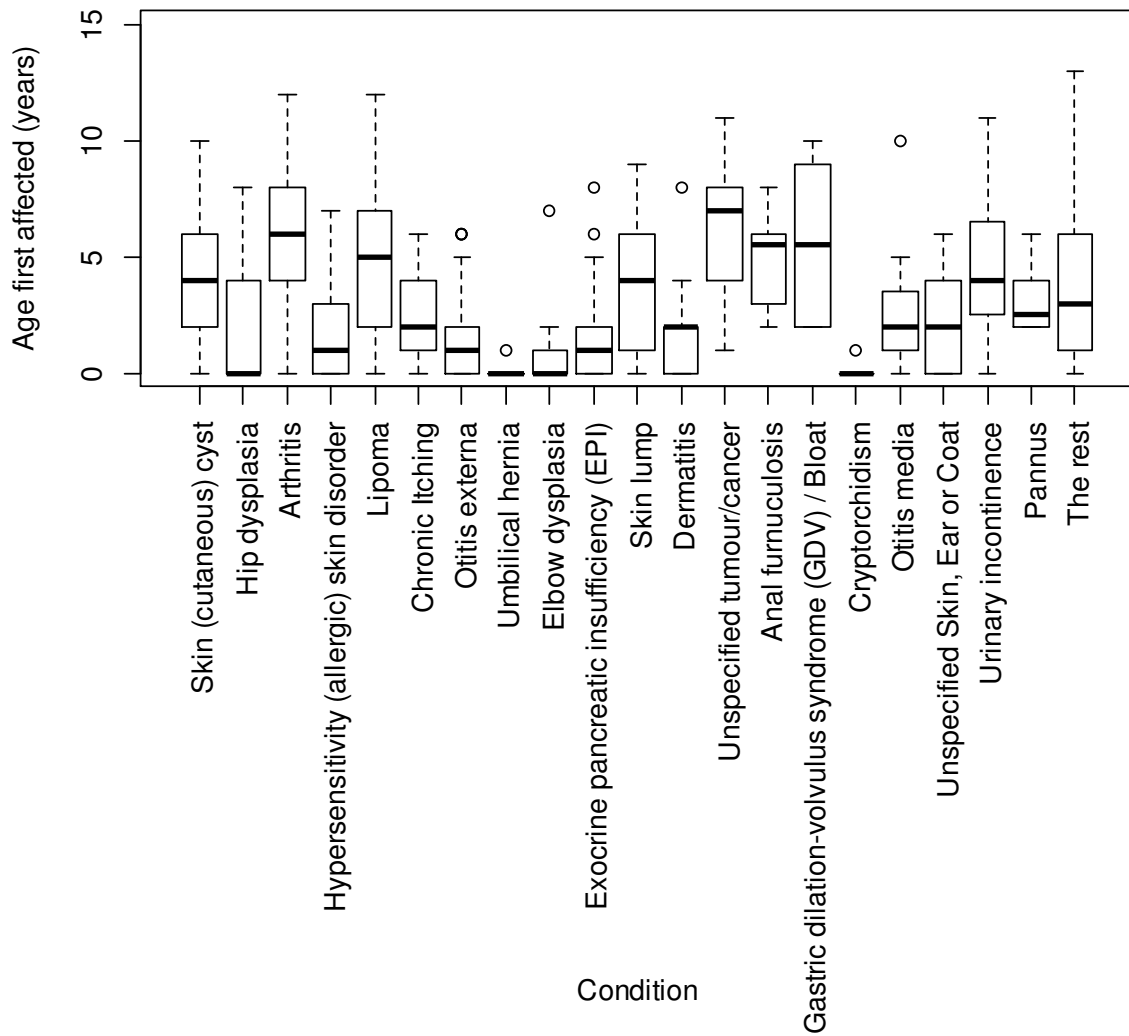


Figure 4: Box and whisker plot of age at diagnosis in years for the most common disease conditions in descending order. The solid line within each box represents the median age at diagnosis from the condition. The box represents 50% of the dogs and the whiskers represent 95% of the dogs for each condition.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

Table 5: The most commonly reported disease conditions in descending order for the breed (N = 1410 live dogs)

Condition	Number of cases of disease	Proportion (%)	Prevalence (%)
Skin (cutaneous) cyst	79	7.75	5.60
Hip dysplasia	54	5.29	3.83
Arthritis	49	4.8	3.48
Hypersensitivity (allergic) skin disorder	45	4.41	3.19
Lipoma	38	3.73	2.70
Chronic Itching	35	3.43	2.48
Otitis externa	31	3.04	2.20
Umbilical hernia	27	2.65	1.91
Elbow dysplasia	22	2.16	1.56
Exocrine pancreatic insufficiency (EPI)	21	2.06	1.49
Skin lump	21	2.06	1.49
Dermatitis	19	1.86	1.35
Unspecified tumour/cancer	18	1.76	1.28
Food Allergy	17	1.67	1.21
Anal furnuculosis	16	1.57	1.13
Cryptorchidism	16	1.57	1.13
Gastric dilation-volvulus syndrome (GDV) / Bloat	16	1.57	1.13
Otitis media	16	1.57	1.13
Unspecified Skin, Ear or Coat	16	1.57	1.13
Urinary incontinence	16	1.57	1.13

Proportion of morbidity as %= N/1,020 disease conditions, prevalence %= N/1,410 live dogs

Summary

From the dogs surveyed, most German Shepherd Dogs were not affected by a disease condition (61.70%). The most commonly reported disease condition in live dogs was skin (cutaneous) cyst. The most commonly reported cause of death was old age.