



**THE KENNEL CLUB  
DOG HEALTH**

**Parson Russell Terrier**

**Pedigree Breed Health Survey**

Forms were received representing 209 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 longevity for the Parson Russell Terrier was 1 year to 26 years. Table 1 shows the causes of death for the breed.

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

<b>Cause of death</b>
Cancer - unspecified
Road Traffic Accident
Aggression
Attacked by a dog
Cushing's Disease
Heart tumour
Leukemia cancer of the blood
Lung tumour
Myelopathy
Old Age
Pancreatitis
Senile dementia/ cognitive dysfunction
Skin tumour

**Morbidity results**

The 209 live Parson Russell Terriers represented 0.48% of total dogs in the survey. The median age of live dogs for the breed was 5 years (Table 2). Of the 209 Parson Russell Terriers which the survey covers, 148 had reported no conditions and 61 reported affected by at least one condition (min = 1 condition(s), max = 4 conditions), giving a total of 89 incidents of conditions.

The gender, neuter status and age of neutering summary statistics for Parson Russell Terriers are shown in Table 3. There were 158 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 Parson Russell Terrier.

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

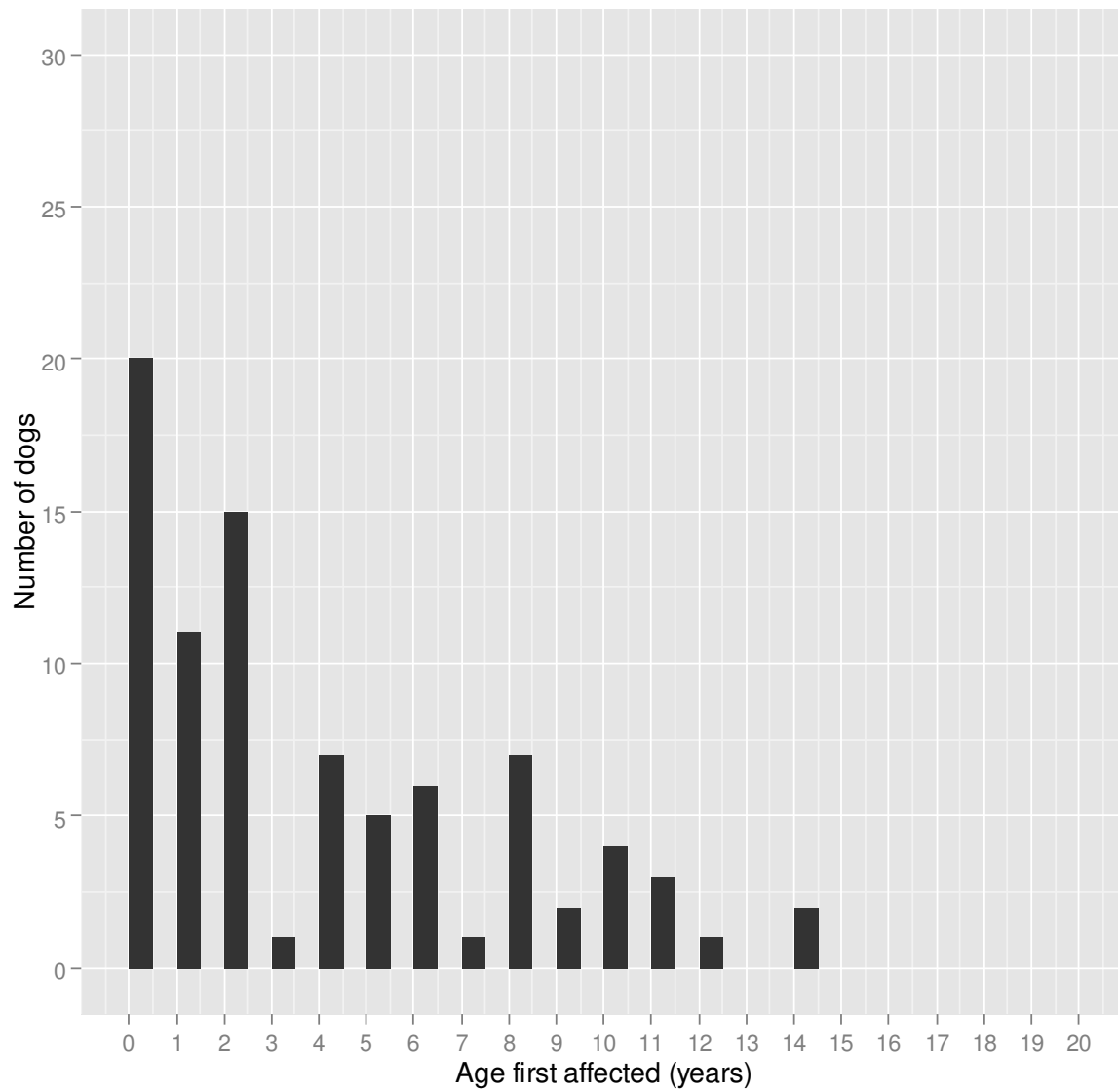
<b>Number of Dogs</b>	<b>Mean age (years)</b>	<b>Median age (years)</b>	<b>Min age (years)</b>	<b>Max age (years)</b>
209	4.83	5	0	15

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

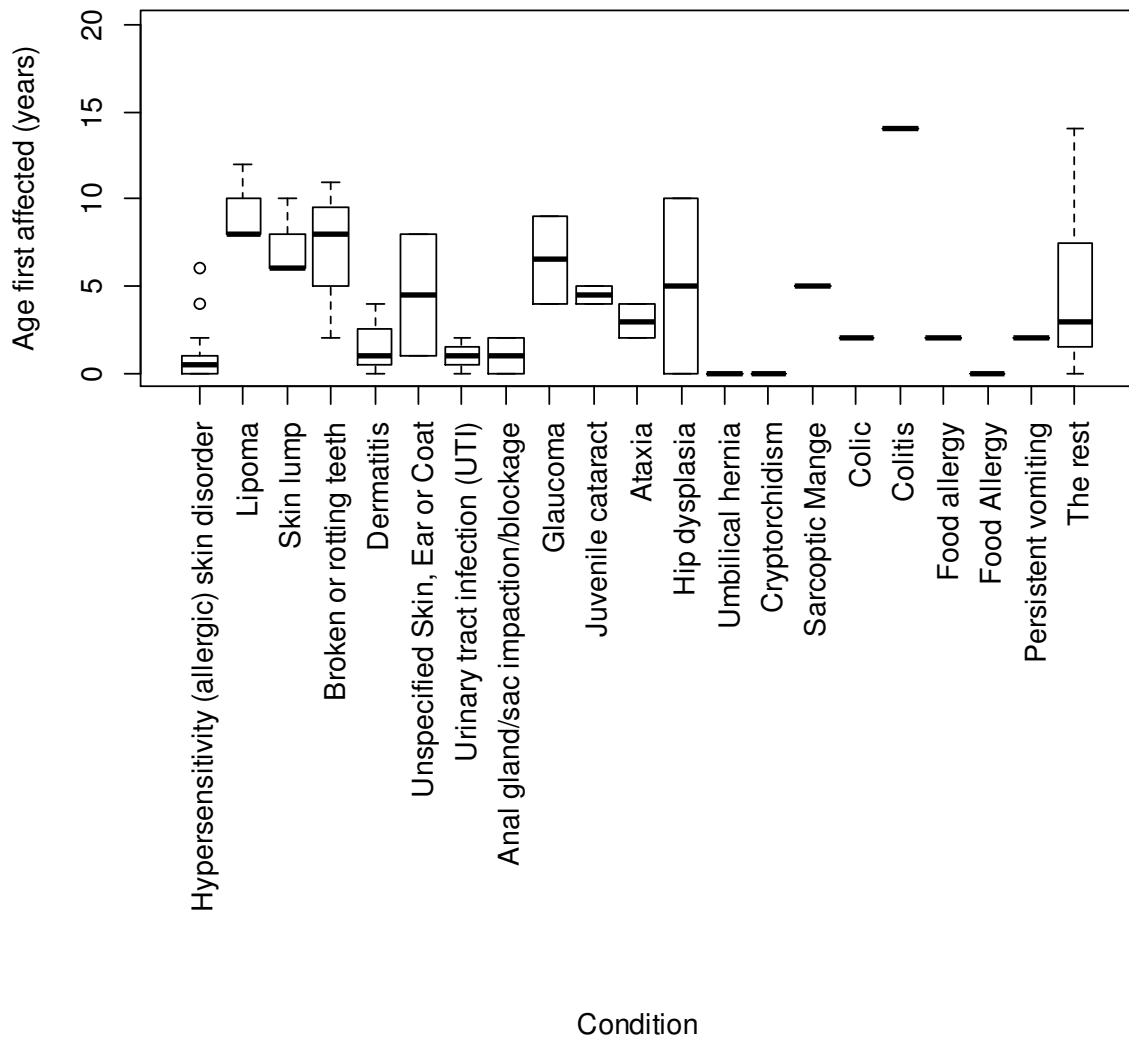
<b>Sex</b>	<b>Neuter status</b>	<b>Age known</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Mean age neutered (years)</b>	<b>Median age neutered (years)</b>	<b>Min age neutered (years)</b>	<b>Max age neutered (years)</b>
Female	Neutered	Yes	62	2.45	2	0	10
Female	Not neutered	No	40	NA	NA	NA	NA
Female	Unknown	No	1	NA	NA	NA	NA
Male	Neutered	Yes	70	1.23	0	0	10
Male	Not neutered	No	32	NA	NA	NA	NA
Male	Unknown	No	4	NA	NA	NA	NA

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

<b>Body condition</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Mean age (years)</b>	<b>Median age (years)</b>	<b>Min age (years)</b>	<b>Max age (years)</b>
No comment was made by vet	5	4.40	2	1	12
Normal	134	4.32	4	0	14
Somewhat overweight	15	6.40	6	3	14
Somewhat underweight	4	1.25	0.5	0	4



**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 = 209 live dogs)

Condition	Number of cases of disease	Proportion (%)	Prevalence (%)
Hypersensitivity (allergic) skin disorder	14	15.73	6.70
Lipoma	5	5.62	2.39
Skin lump	4	4.49	1.91
Broken or rotting teeth	3	3.37	1.44
Dermatitis	3	3.37	1.44
Unspecified Skin, Ear or Coat	3	3.37	1.44
Urinary tract infection (UTI)	3	3.37	1.44
Anal gland/sac impaction/blockage	2	2.25	0.96
Ataxia	2	2.25	0.96
Cryptorchidism	2	2.25	0.96
Food Allergy	2	2.25	0.96
Glaucoma	2	2.25	0.96
Hip dysplasia	2	2.25	0.96
Juvenile cataract	2	2.25	0.96
Sarcoptic Mange	2	2.25	0.96
Umbilical hernia	2	2.25	0.96
Arthritis	1	1.12	0.48
Bladder tumour/cancer	1	1.12	0.48
Blocked tear ducts	1	1.12	0.48
Cataract - age related	1	1.12	0.48

Proportion of morbidity as %= N/89 disease conditions, prevalence %= N/209 live dogs

### **Summary**

From the dogs surveyed, most Parson Russell Terriers were not affected by a disease condition (70.81 %). The most commonly reported disease condition in live dogs was hypersensitivity (allergic) skin disorder. There were two reported causes of death that represented an equal proportion of the deaths; these causes were cancer (unspecified) and road traffic accident.