



**THE KENNEL CLUB  
DOG HEALTH**

**Rhodesian Ridgeback**

**Pedigree Breed Health Survey**

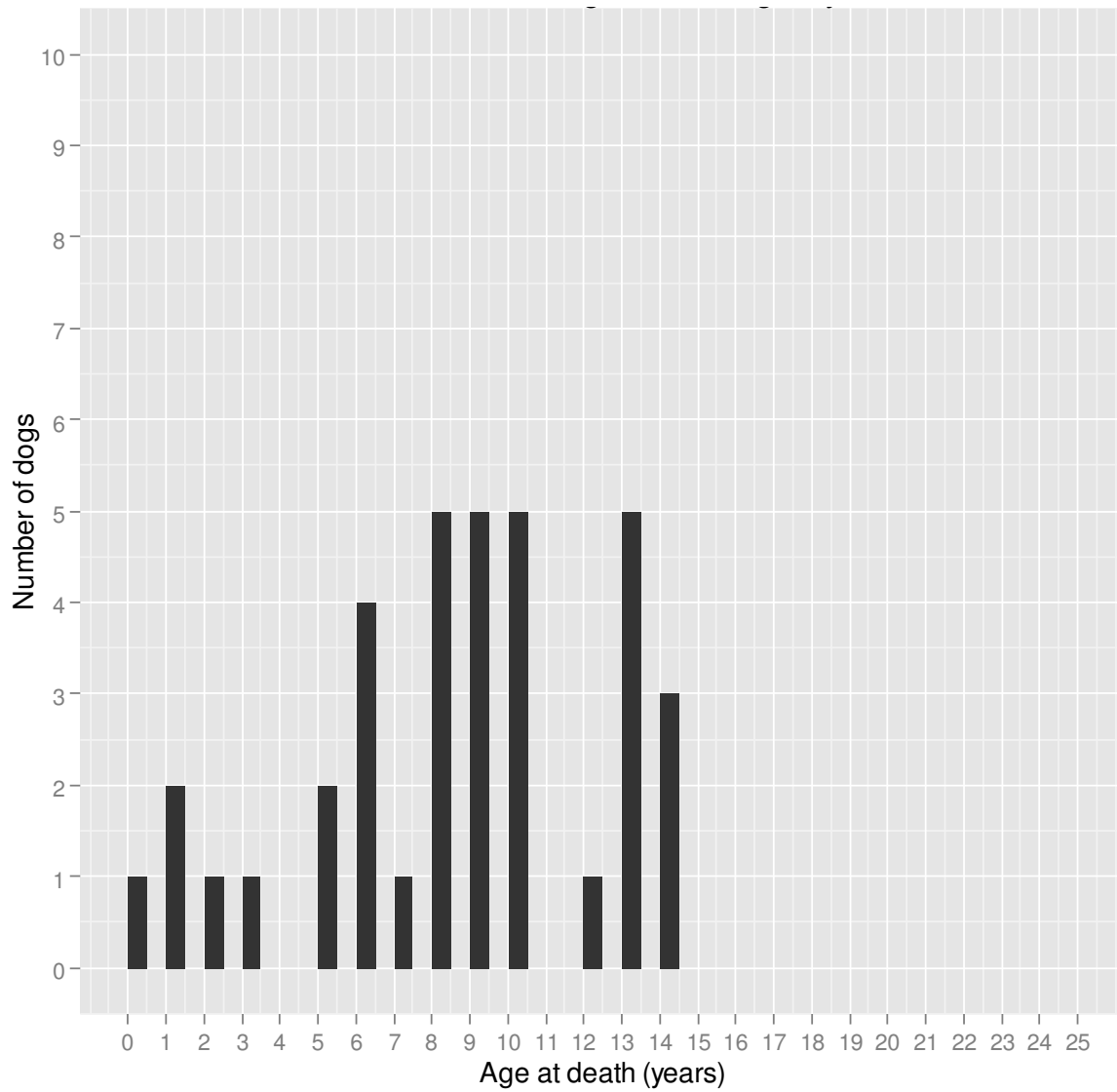
Forms were received representing 282 living dogs & 36 deceased dogs.

**Mortality results**

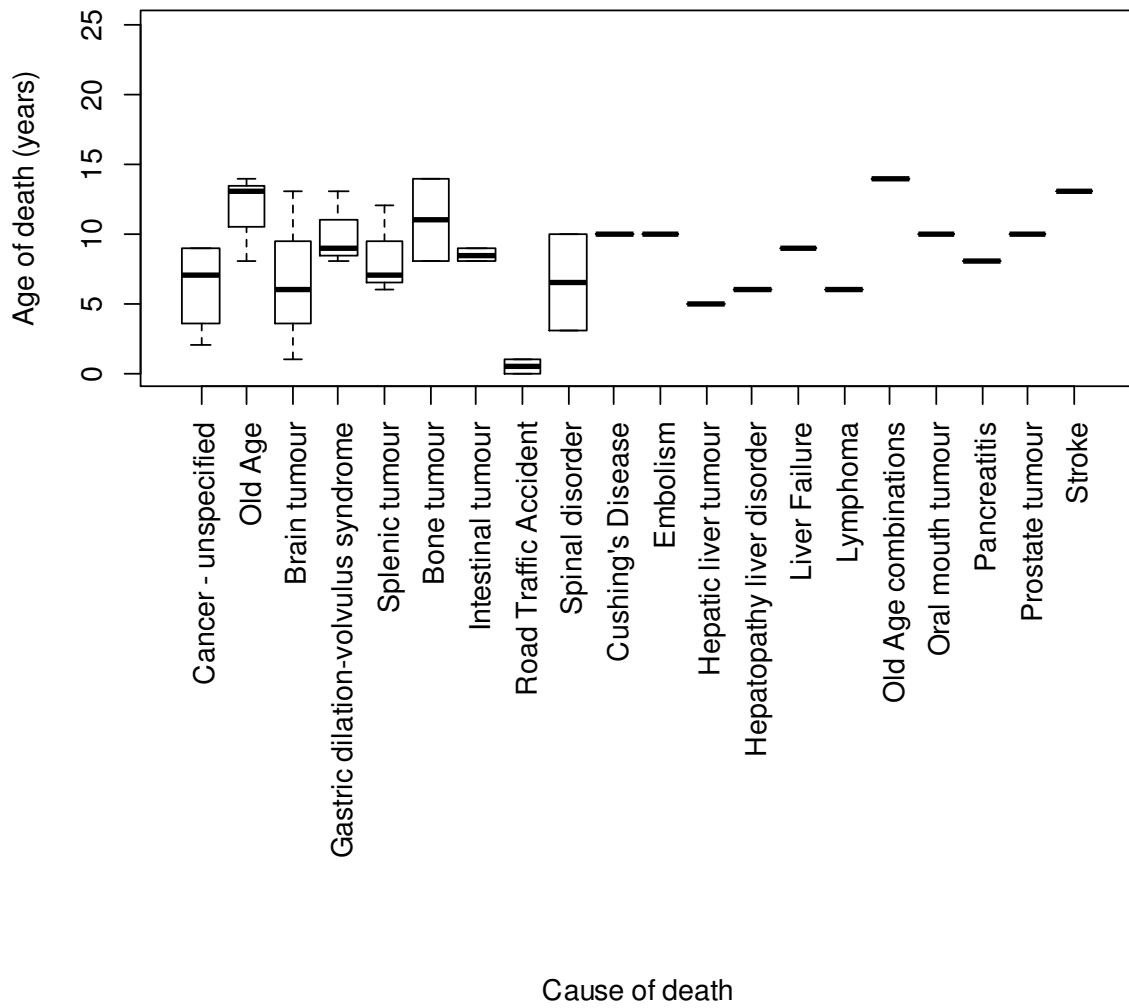
A total of 36 deaths were reported, representing 0.64% of all deaths reported in the Pedigree Breed Health survey. The median age for Rhodesian Ridgeback was 9 years (Figure 1). Table 1 shows the causes of death for the breed. Age at death is presented for the most common causes in Figure 2.

**Table 1** The twenty most common causes of death/reasons for euthanasia (N = 36 deceased dogs).

<b>Cause of death</b>	<b>Number of cases</b>	<b>Proportion (%)</b>
Cancer - unspecified	4	11.11
Old Age	4	11.11
Brain tumour	3	8.33
Gastric dilation-volvulus syndrome GDV Bloat	3	8.33
Splenic tumour	3	8.33
Bone tumour	2	5.56
Intestinal tumour	2	5.56
Road Traffic Accident	2	5.56
Spinal disorder	2	5.56
Cushing's Disease	1	2.78
Embolism	1	2.78
Hepatic liver tumour	1	2.78
Hepatopathy liver disorder	1	2.78
Liver Failure	1	2.78
Lymphoma	1	2.78
Old Age combinations	1	2.78
Oral mouth tumour	1	2.78
Pancreatitis	1	2.78
Prostate tumour	1	2.78
Stroke	1	2.78



**Figure 1:** Histogram of the longevity for 36 reported deaths: overall median age at death was 9 years (minimum=0 years, maximum=14 years); mean age at death was 8.39 years



**Figure 2:** Box and whisker plot of age at death in years for the twenty most common causes of death (N=36). 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 282 live Rhodesian Ridgebacks represented 0.65% of total dogs in the survey. The median age of live dogs for the breed was 4 years (Table 2). Of the 282 Rhodesian Ridgebacks which the survey covers, 150 had reported no conditions and 132 reported affected by at least one condition (min = 1 condition(s), max = 7 conditions), giving a total of 239 incidents of conditions.

The gender, neuter status and age of neutering summary statistics for Rhodesian Ridgebacks are shown in Table 3. There were 238 dogs with responses for Body Condition displayed in Table 4.

The median age the dogs were first affected by a condition was 3 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 Rhodesian Ridgeback.

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

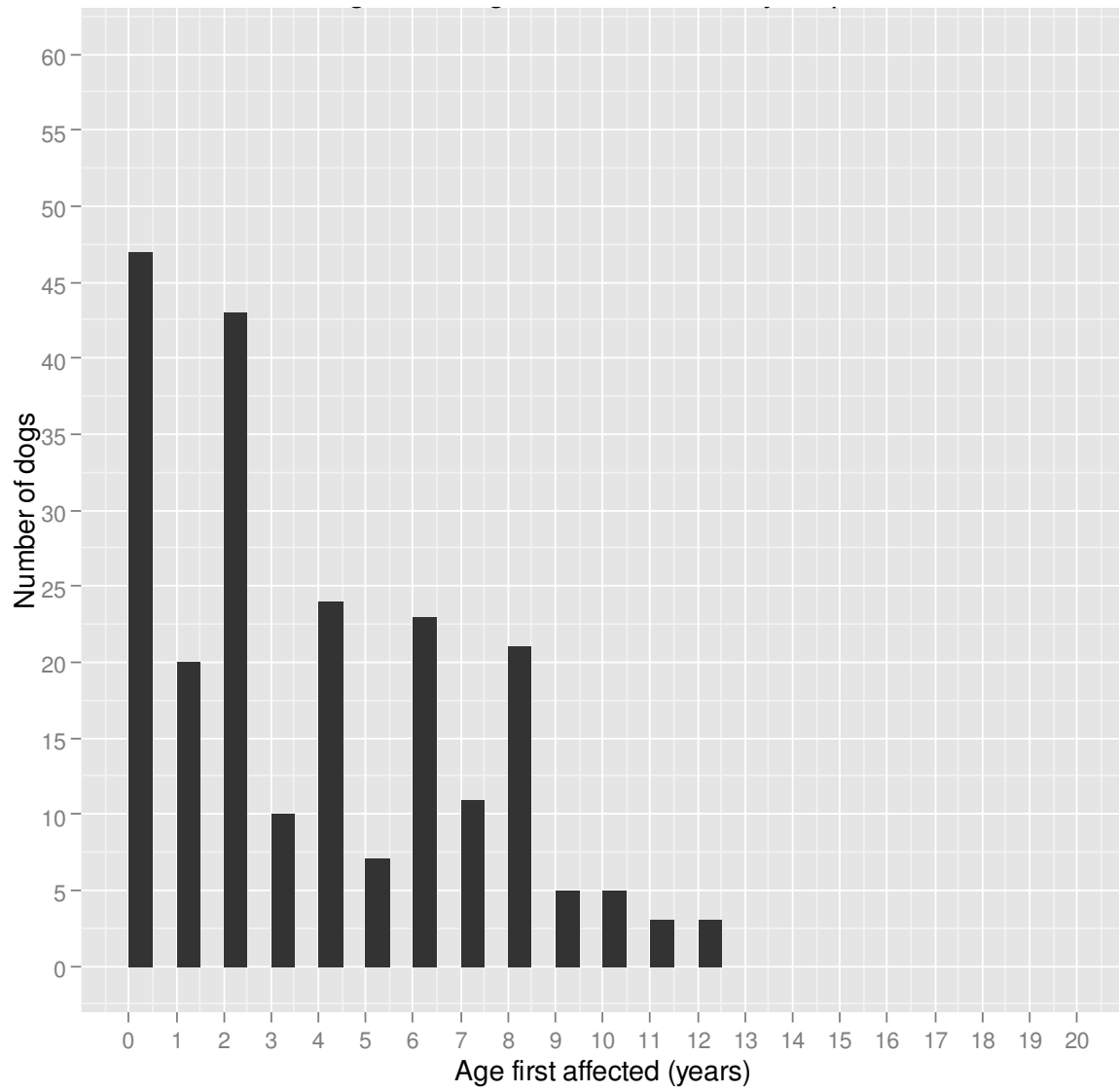
<b>Number of Dogs</b>	<b>Mean age (years)</b>	<b>Median age (years)</b>	<b>Min age (years)</b>	<b>Max age (years)</b>
282	4.46	4	0	17

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

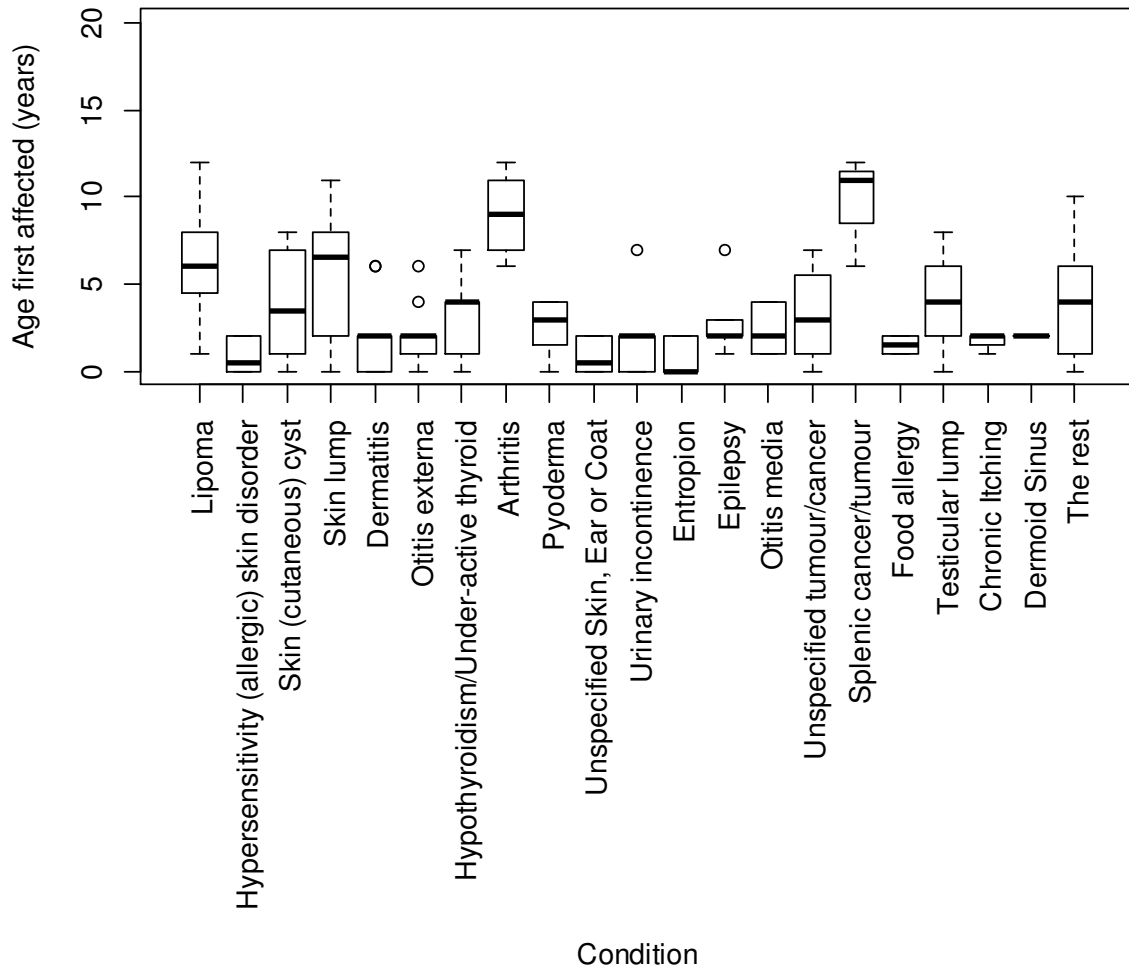
<b>Sex</b>	<b>Neuter status</b>	<b>Age known</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Mean age neutered (years)</b>	<b>Median age neutered (years)</b>	<b>Min age neutered (years)</b>	<b>Max age neutered (years)</b>
Female	Neutered	Yes	89	1.67	1	0	8
Female	Not neutered	No	52	NA	NA	NA	NA
Female	Unknown	No	4	NA	NA	NA	NA
Male	Neutered	Yes	64	1.67	1	0	10
Male	Not neutered	No	68	NA	NA	NA	NA
Male	Unknown	No	5	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	11	3.18	3	0	6
Normal	201	3.80	3	0	16
Somewhat overweight	21	5.90	6	1	12
Somewhat underweight	5	4.40	3	0	9



**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 = 282 live dogs)

Condition	Number of cases of disease	Proportion (%)	Prevalence (%)
Lipoma	28	11.72	9.93
Hypersensitivity (allergic) skin disorder	18	7.53	6.38
Skin (cutaneous) cyst	11	4.6	3.90
Skin lump	10	4.18	3.55
Dermatitis	9	3.77	3.19
Otitis externa	9	3.77	3.19
Hypothyroidism/Under-active thyroid	8	3.35	2.84
Arthritis	7	2.93	2.48
Pyoderma	7	2.93	2.48
Unspecified Skin, Ear or Coat	7	2.93	2.48
Urinary incontinence	6	2.51	2.13
Entropion	5	2.09	1.77
Epilepsy	5	2.09	1.77
Otitis media	5	2.09	1.77
Food Allergy	4	1.67	1.42
Unspecified tumour/cancer	4	1.67	1.42
Chronic Itching	3	1.26	1.06
Dermoid Sinus	3	1.26	1.06
Ear mite infestation	3	1.26	1.06
Skin cancer/tumour	3	1.26	1.06

Proportion of morbidity as %= N/239 disease conditions, prevalence %= N/282 live dogs

### **Summary**

From the dogs surveyed, most Rhodesian Ridgebacks were not affected by a disease condition (53.19%). The most commonly reported disease condition in live dogs was lipoma. There were two causes of death that represented an equal proportion of the deaths; these causes were cancer (unspecified) and old age.