



**THE KENNEL CLUB  
DOG HEALTH**

**Shih Tzu**

**Pedigree Breed Health Survey**

Forms were received representing 350 living dogs & 26 deceased dogs.

**Mortality results**

A total of 26 deaths were reported, representing 0.46% of all deaths reported in the Pedigree Breed Health survey. The range of longevity for the Shih Tzu was 0 to 16 years. Table 1 shows the causes of death for the breed.

**Table 1** The most common causes of death/reasons for euthanasia (N = 26 deceased dogs).

<b>Cause of death</b>
Kidney Failure
Old Age
Unknown
Arthritis
Excessive Barking
Bone tumour
Cardiac heart Failure
Fungal infection
Intervertebral disc disease IVDD
Kidney disease
Lymphoma
Myelopathy
Oral mouth tumour
Renal Dysplasia
Road Traffic Accident
Surgical complications
Viral infection - unspecified

## **Morbidity results**

The 350 live Shih Tzus represented 0.81% of total dogs in the survey. The median age of live dogs for the breed was 3 years (Table 2). Of the 350 Shih Tzus which the survey covers, 212 had reported no conditions and 138 reported affected by at least one condition (min = 1 condition(s), max = 7 conditions), giving a total of 252 incidents of conditions.

The gender, neuter status and age of neutering summary statistics for Shih Tzus are shown in Table 3. There were 299 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= 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 Shih Tzu.

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

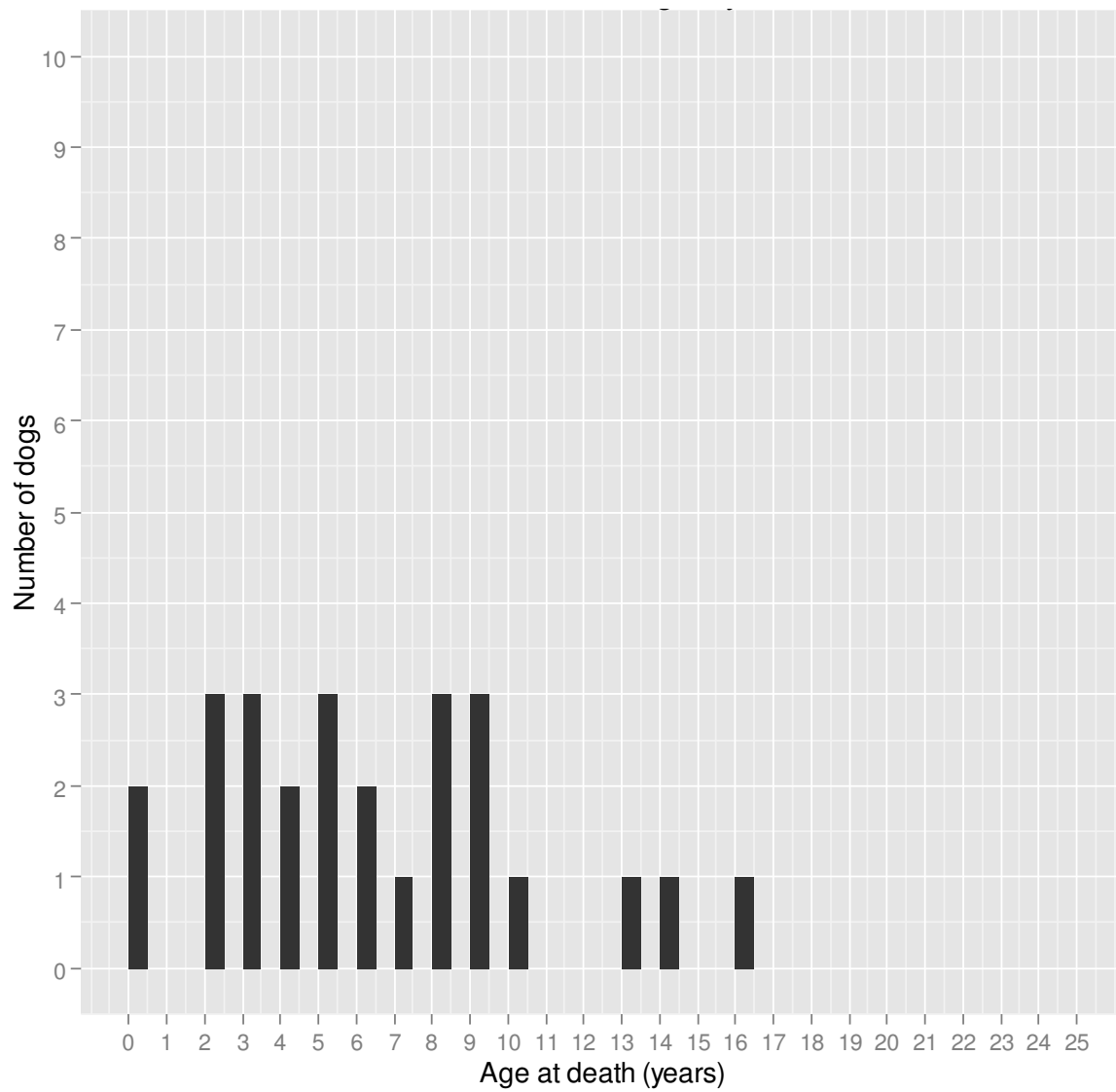
<b>Number of Dogs</b>	<b>Mean age (years)</b>	<b>Median age (years)</b>	<b>Min age (years)</b>	<b>Max age (years)</b>
351	4.00	3	0	15

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

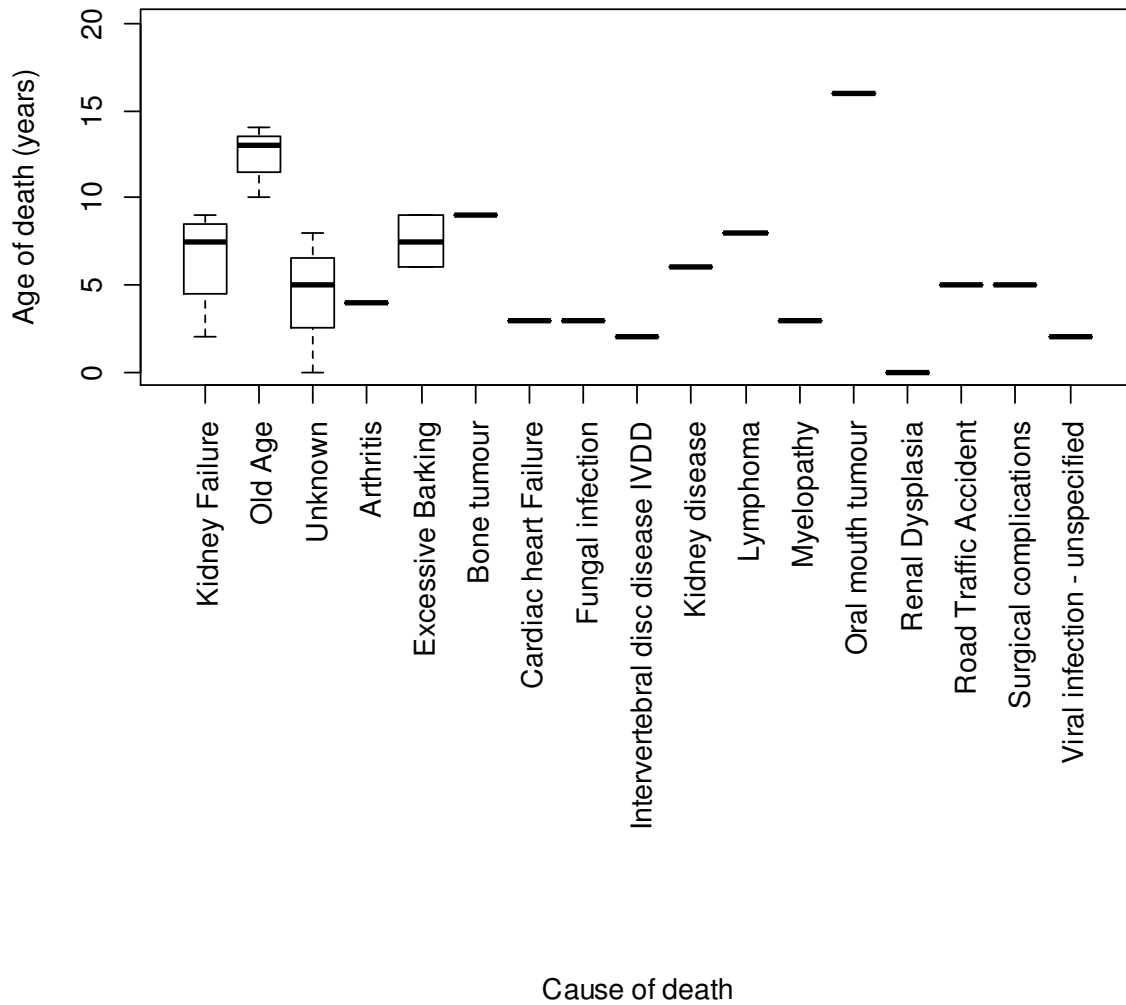
<b>Sex</b>	<b>Neuter status</b>	<b>Age known</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Mean age neutered (years)</b>	<b>Median age neutered (years)</b>	<b>Min age neutered (years)</b>	<b>Max age neutered (years)</b>
Female	Neutered	Yes	112	1.04	0	0	7
Female	Neutered	No	2	NA	NA	NA	NA
Female	Not neutered	No	58	NA	NA	NA	NA
Female	Unknown	No	4	NA	NA	NA	NA
Male	Neutered	Yes	107	0.77	0	0	8
Male	Not neutered	No	63	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	23	4.35	5	0	9
Normal	250	3.15	2	0	12
Somewhat overweight	22	4.50	4	0	10
Somewhat underweight	4	3.75	3.5	0	8



**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 = 350 live dogs)

Condition	Number of cases of disease	Proportion (%)	Prevalence (%)
Umbilical hernia	45	17.86	12.86
Skin (cutaneous) cyst	16	6.35	4.57
Hypersensitivity (allergic) skin disorder	10	3.97	2.86
Anal gland/sac impaction/blockage	9	3.57	2.57
Chronic Itching	8	3.17	2.29
Lipoma	8	3.17	2.29
Intervertebral disc disorder	7	2.78	2.00
Unspecified Eye	7	2.78	2.00
Corneal Ulcer	6	2.38	1.71
Food Allergy	5	1.98	1.43
Narrowed nostrils	5	1.98	1.43
Otitis media	5	1.98	1.43
Hip dysplasia	4	1.59	1.14
Otitis externa	4	1.59	1.14
Short ulna syndrome	4	1.59	1.14
Unspecified tumour/cancer	4	1.59	1.14
Blood present in urine	3	1.19	0.86
Colitis	3	1.19	0.86
Conjunctivitis	3	1.19	0.86
Cryptorchidism	3	1.19	0.86

Proportion of morbidity as %= N/252 disease conditions, prevalence %= N/350 live dogs

### **Summary**

From the dogs surveyed, most Shih Tzus were not affected by a disease condition (60.57%). The most commonly reported disease condition in live dogs was umbilical hernia. The most commonly reported cause of death was kidney failure.