



**THE KENNEL CLUB
DOG HEALTH**

West Highland White Terrier

Pedigree Breed Health Survey

Forms were received representing 835 living dogs & 96 deceased dogs.

Mortality results

A total of 96 deaths were reported, representing 1.71% of all deaths reported in the Pedigree Breed Health survey. The median longevity for the West Highland White Terrier was 13 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 = 96 deceased dogs).

Cause of death	Number of cases	Proportion (%)
Old Age	14	14.58
Kidney Failure	8	8.33
Unknown	7	7.29
Cancer - unspecified	5	5.21
Old Age combinations	5	5.21
Cardiomyopathy	4	4.17
Cardiac heart Failure	3	3.13
Cushing's Disease	3	3.13
Lymphoma	3	3.13
Oral mouth tumour	3	3.13
Addison's disease (primary hypoadrenocorticism)	2	2.08
Allergies	2	2.08
Gastric tumour	2	2.08
Hepatopathy liver disorder	2	2.08
Liver Failure	2	2.08
Liver tumour	2	2.08
Pulmonary fibrosis	2	2.08
Ruptured spleen	2	2.08
Seizure	2	2.08
Bone tumour	1	1.04

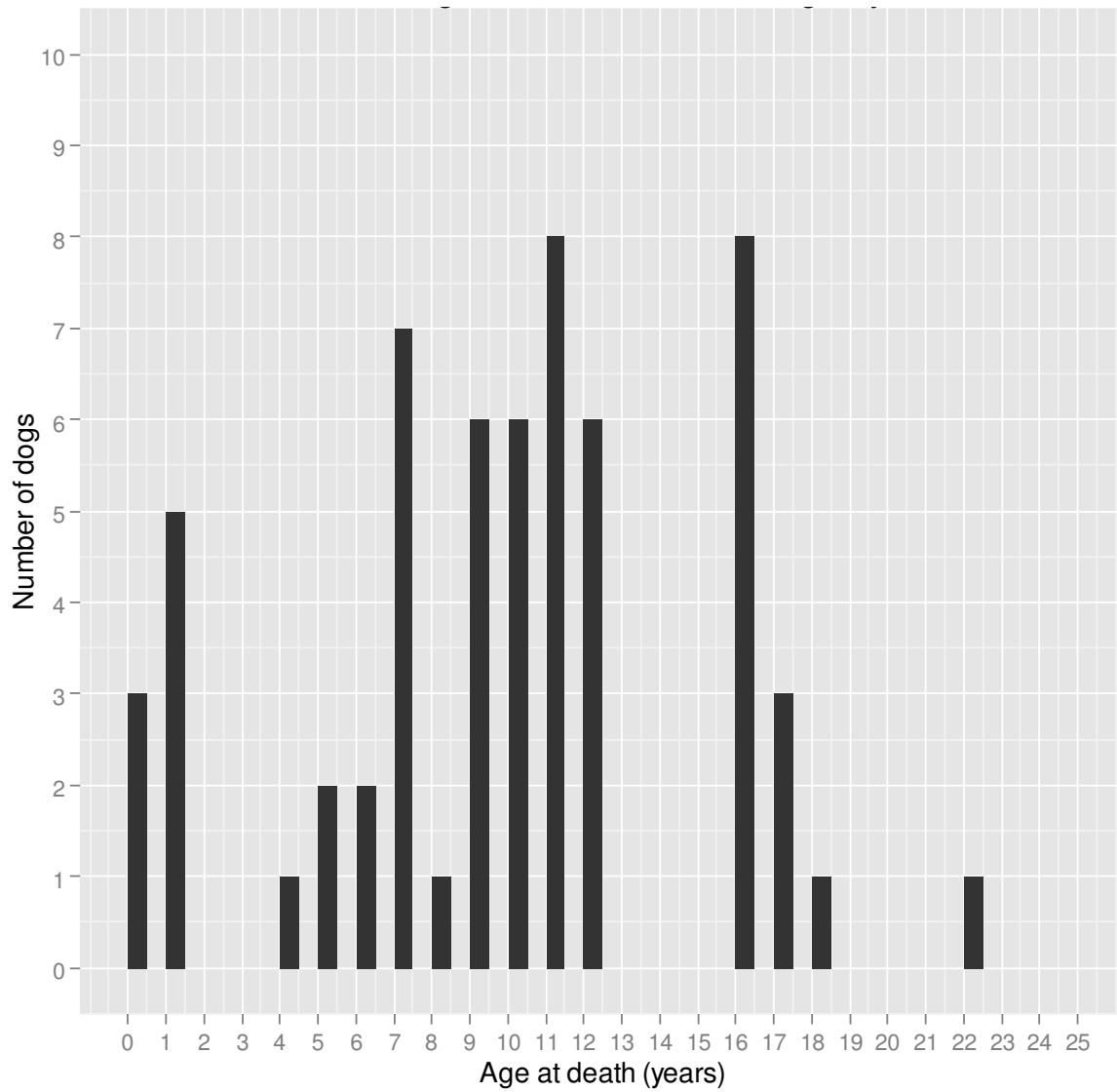


Figure 1: Histogram of the longevity for 96 reported deaths: overall median age at death was 13 years (minimum= 0 years, maximum= 22 years); mean age at death was 11.31 years

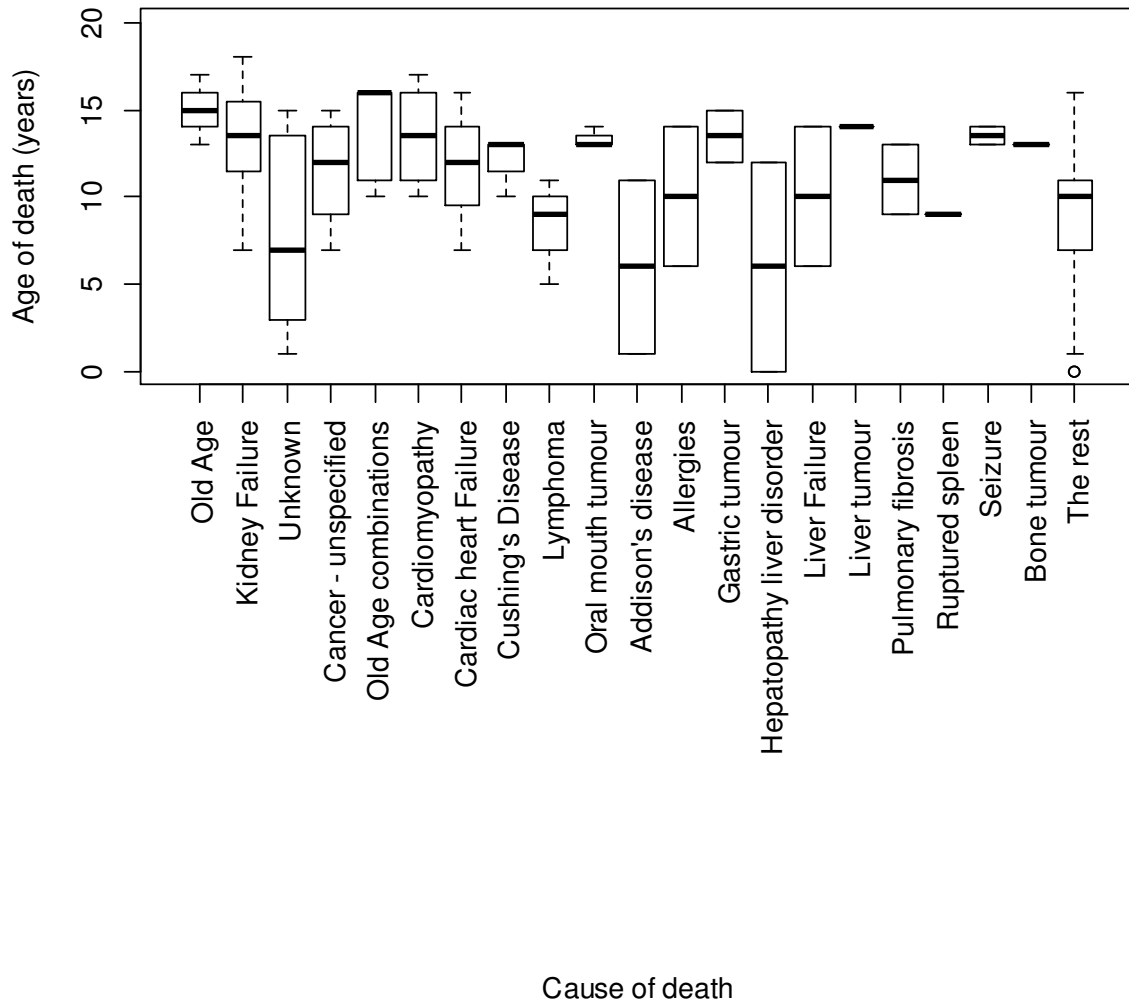


Figure 2: Box and whisker plot of age at death in years for the twenty most common causes of death (N=96). The solid line within each box represents the median age of death from the condition. The box represents 50% of the dogs and the whiskers represent 95% of the dogs for each condition. The circles (o) represent possible outliers

Morbidity results

The 835 live West Highland White Terriers represented 1.94% of total dogs in the survey. The median age of live dogs for the breed was 5 years (Table 2). Of the 835 West Highland White Terriers which the survey covers, 512 had reported no conditions and 323 reported affected by at least one condition (min = 1 condition(s), max = 9 conditions), giving a total of 614 incidents of conditions.

The gender, neuter status and age of neutering summary statistics for West Highland White Terriers are shown in Table 3. There were 724 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= 17 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 West Highland White Terrier.

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

Number of Dogs	Mean age (years)	Median age (years)	Min age (years)	Max age (years)
835	5.10	5	0	20

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	289	1.04	0	0	9
Female	Neutered	No	6	NA	NA	NA	NA
Female	Not neutered	No	97	NA	NA	NA	NA
Female	Unknown	No	10	NA	NA	NA	NA
Male	Neutered	Yes	278	0.94	0	0	13
Male	Neutered	No	3	NA	NA	NA	NA
Male	Not neutered	No	140	NA	NA	NA	NA
Male	Unknown	No	12	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 (years)	Median age (years)	Min age (years)	Max age (years)
No comment was made by vet	48	4.25	4	0	16
Normal	619	4.24	4	0	17
Somewhat overweight	49	6.04	6	1	12
Somewhat underweight	8	5.875	6	1	10

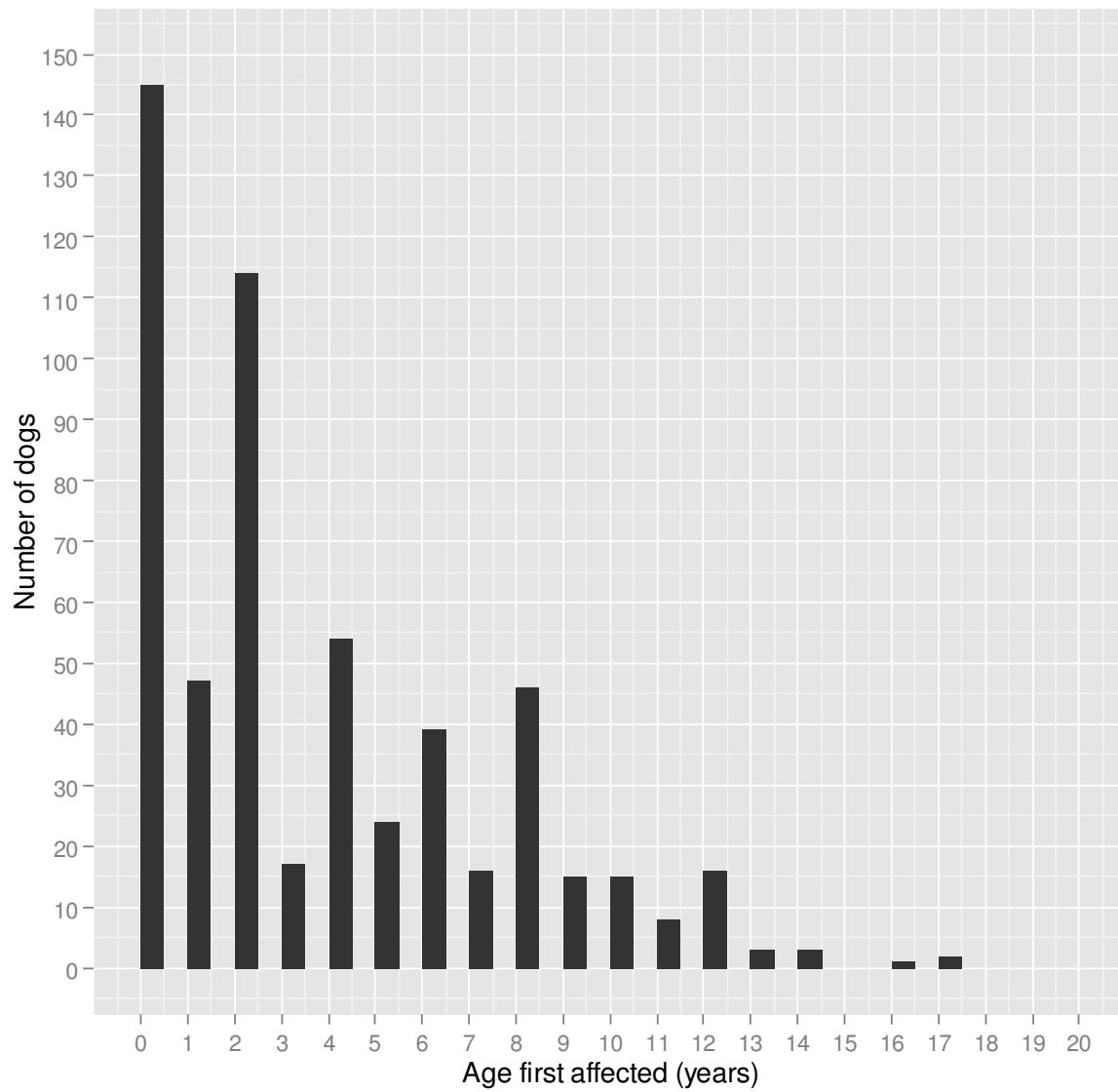


Figure 3: Histogram showing frequency of known age at diagnosis for the disease conditions reported

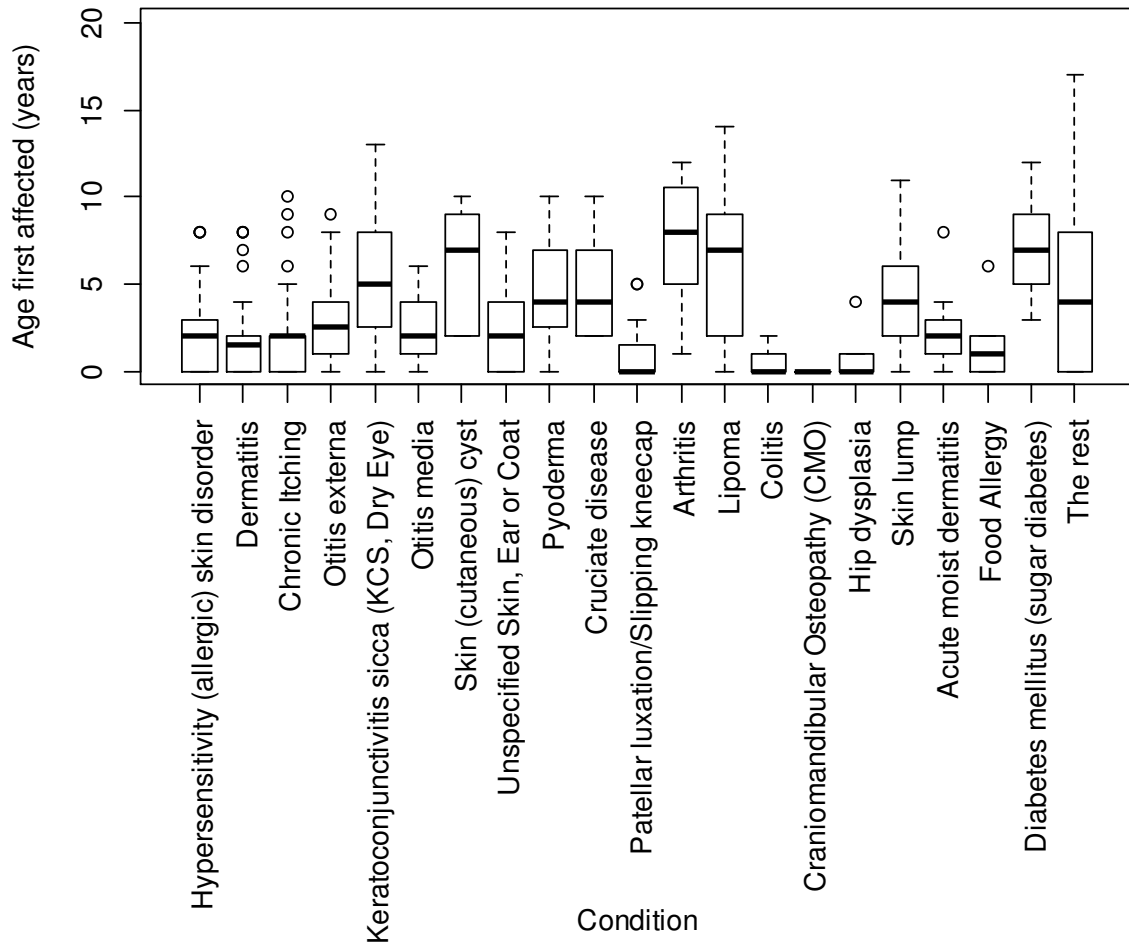


Figure 4: Box and whisker plot of age at diagnosis in years for the most common disease conditions in descending order. The solid line within each box represents the median age at diagnosis from the condition. The box represents 50% of the dogs and the whiskers represent 95% of the dogs for each condition.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

Table 5: The most commonly reported disease conditions in descending order for the breed (N = 835 live dogs)

Condition	Number of cases of disease	Proportion (%)	Prevalence (%)
Hypersensitivity (allergic) skin disorder	72	11.73	8.62
Dermatitis	39	6.35	4.67
Chronic Itching	32	5.21	3.83
Otitis externa	24	3.91	2.87
Keratoconjunctivitis sicca (KCS, Dry Eye)	20	3.26	2.40
Otitis media	18	2.93	2.16
Skin (cutaneous) cyst	18	2.93	2.16
Unspecified Skin, Ear or Coat	18	2.93	2.16
Pyoderma	16	2.61	1.92
Cruciate disease	15	2.44	1.80
Patellar luxation/Slipping kneecap	15	2.44	1.80
Arthritis	14	2.28	1.68
Lipoma	14	2.28	1.68
Colitis	10	1.63	1.20
Cranio-mandibular Osteopathy (CMO)	10	1.63	1.20
Food Allergy	10	1.63	1.20
Hip dysplasia	10	1.63	1.20
Skin lump	10	1.63	1.20
Acute moist dermatitis	9	1.47	1.08
Diabetes mellitus (sugar diabetes)	8	1.3	0.96

Proportion of morbidity as %= N/614 disease conditions, prevalence %= N/835 live dogs

Summary

From the dogs surveyed most West Highland White Terriers were not by a disease condition (61.32%). The most commonly reported disease condition in live dogs was hypersensitivity (allergic) skin disorder. The most commonly reported cause of death was old age.