

Report from the Kennel Club/
British Small Animal Veterinary Association
Scientific Committee

Summary results of the
Purebred Dog Health Survey
for Field Spaniels

Warning: The results of this survey and particularly the breed-specific analyses should be interpreted with caution. The overall response rate was only 24% with breed-specific response rates from 4.5% to 64.7%.

Field Spaniels

A total of 235 forms were sent out and 56 were returned, representing 131 live dogs. This breed had a 23.8% response rate (56/235) and it represented 0.41% of all returns (56/13,741).

Mortality data

A total of 68 deaths were reported and this represents 0.43% of all deaths reported in the survey (68/15,881). The median age at death for Field Spaniels was 11 years and 8 months (min = 1 year and 3 months, max = 17 years and 3 months) and this was higher than the overall median of 11 years and 3 months (Figure 1). Table 1 shows the causes of death for Field Spaniels. Age at death is presented for the most common causes of death (Figure 2).

Table 1. Causes of death by organ system/category for Field Spaniels.

Cause of death	N	%	Most common specific causes in descending order
1 Cancer	20	29.4	Liver (type unspecified); unspecified; brain tumour
2 Old age	12	17.6	Old age
3 Neurologic	11	16.2	Seizures; spinal paralysis unspecified
4 Cerebral vascular	6	8.8	Stroke or cerebral vascular accident
5 Cardiac	3	4.4	Cardiomegaly; heart attack; cardiomyopathy
6 Combinations	3	4.4	
7 Hepatic	3	4.4	Liver failure acute > chronic
8 Reproductive	2	2.9	Prostatic disease; pyometra
9 Urologic	2	2.9	Acute kidney failure
10 Behaviour	1	1.5	Unspecified
11 Endocrine	1	1.5	Cushings disease
12 Gastrointestinal	1	1.5	Pancreatitis
13 Immune mediated	1	1.5	Thrombocytopaenia
14 Musculoskeletal	1	1.5	Arthritis
15 Perioperative	1	1.5	
Total	68	100.0	

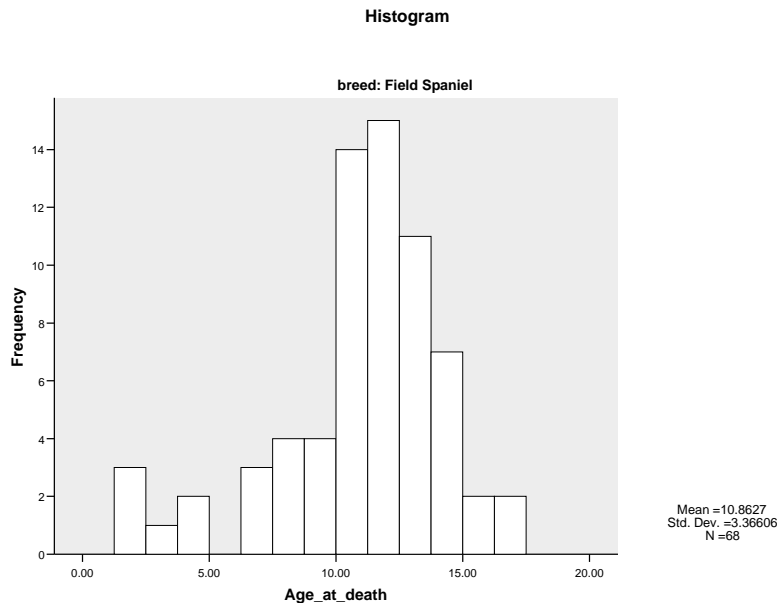


Figure 1. Histogram showing the frequency (as number of dogs) of age at death (in years) for the 68 Field Spaniel deaths with age at death reported.

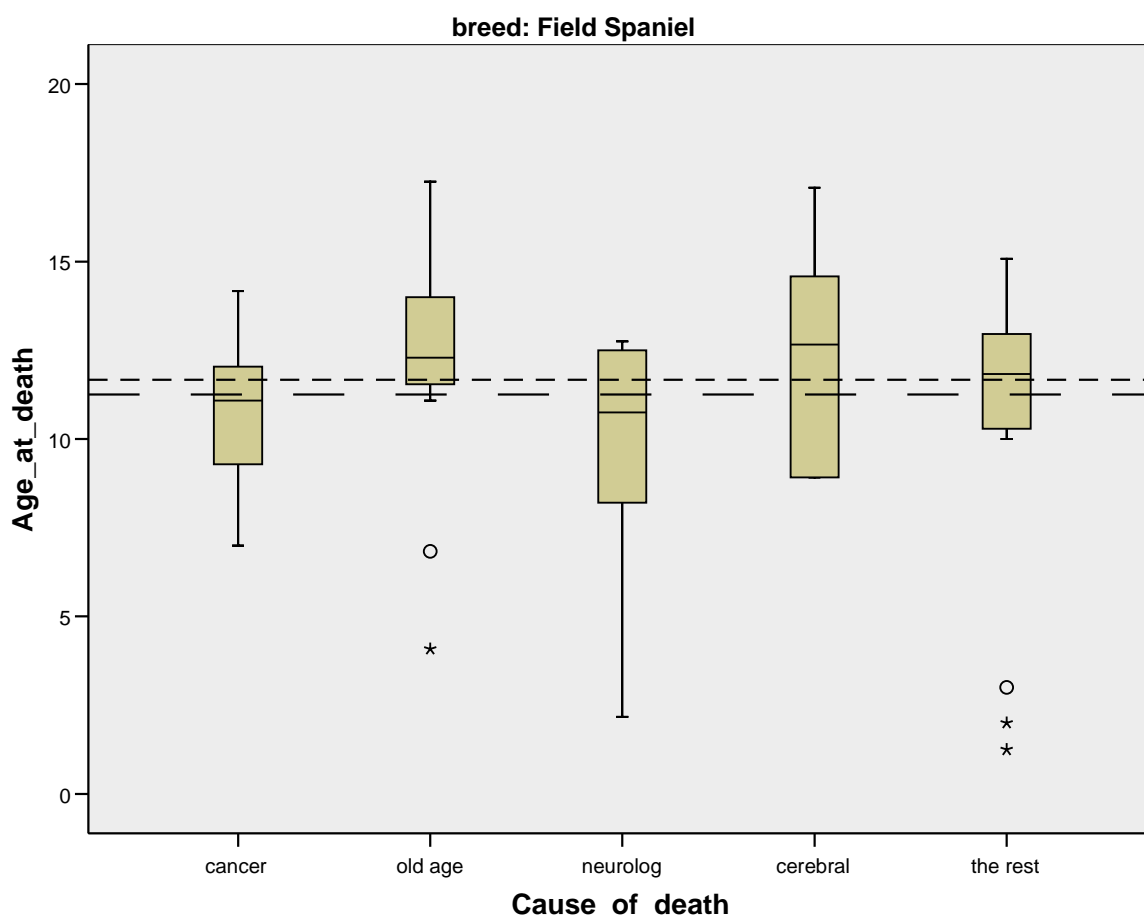


Figure 2. Box and whisker plot of age at death in years for the most common causes of death in Field Spaniels (N=68). The dashed line (---) is the overall median age at death for all dogs in the survey and the dotted line (----) is the overall median age of death for Field Spaniels. The solid line within each grey box represents the median age at death from the condition.

Morbidity data

The median current age of the 131 live dogs with a reported age was 5 years and 10 months (min=3 months, max=14 years and 4 months, Figure 3). Health information was reported for 131 live dogs of which 62 (47%) were healthy and 69 (53%) had at least one reported health condition, resulting in a total of 143 reported conditions with a median of 2 conditions/dog (min=1, max=6).

The median current age of all healthy dogs with a reported age (N=62) was 4 years and 9 months (min=3 months, max=12 years and 8 months). The distribution of gender and neuter status is shown in Table 2.

The median current age of all dogs with one or more disease conditions and a reported age (N=69) was 6 years and 11 months (min=5 months, max=14 years and 4 months). The median age at diagnosis for all disease occurrences with a reported age at diagnosis (N=139) was 3 years and 4 months (min= 2 months, max= 13 years, Figure 4). Table 3 shows the disease conditions for Field Spaniels. Age at diagnosis is presented for the most common disease conditions (Figure 5).

Table 2. Distribution of gender and neuter status for 123 Field Spaniels with reported gender and neuter status.

Gender	Neuter status		Totals
	Intact	Neutered	
Female	31	38	69 (56%)
Male	43	11	54 (44%)
Totals	74 (60%)	49 (40%)	123 (100%)

Significantly more females were neutered (P=0.0001).

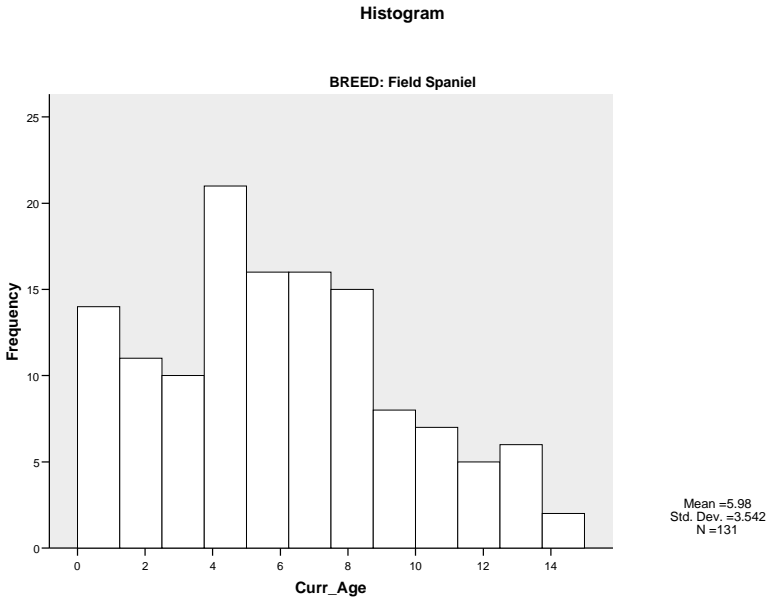


Figure 3. Histogram showing frequency of current age in years for the 131 live Field Spaniels with age reported.

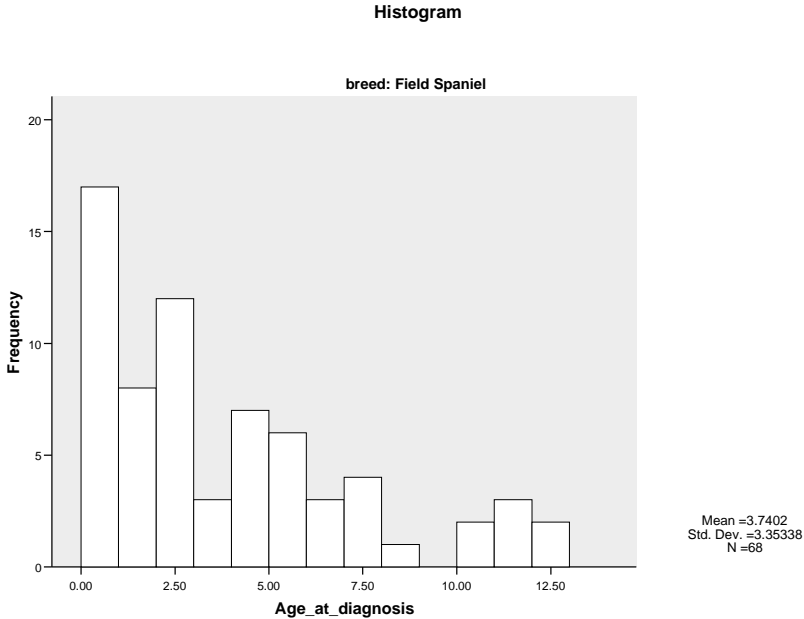


Figure 4. Histogram showing frequency of age at diagnosis for the 68 Field Spaniels with one or more disease conditions, using the youngest age at which a disease condition was first reported for those dogs with more than one disease condition or episode.

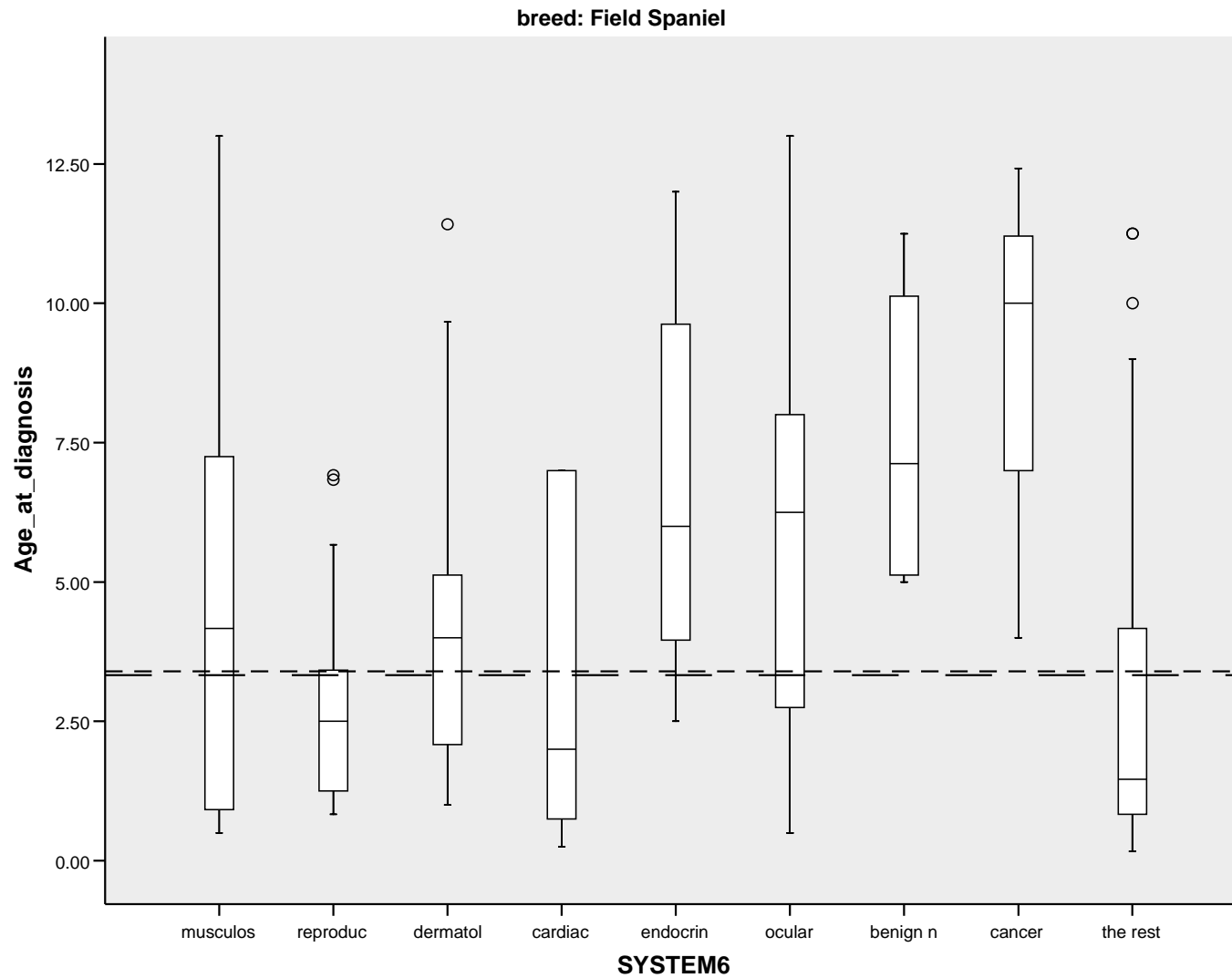


Figure 5. Box and whisker plot of age at diagnosis in years for the most common disease conditions in descending order for Field Spaniels (N=69 dogs with 139 conditions with age reported). The dashed line (---) is the overall median age at diagnosis for all dogs in the survey and the dotted line (----) is the overall median age at diagnosis for Field Spaniels. The solid line within each grey box represents the median age at diagnosis from the condition.

Table 3. Disease conditions by organ system/category for Field Spaniels.

Disease condition	All conditions		Most common specific conditions in descending order
	N	%	
1 Musculoskeletal	30	21.0	Arthritis (hindlimb>unspecified>rest); CLR; CHD; patellar luxation
2 Reproductive	30	21.0	False pregnancy; infertility; pyometra; cryptorchid; uterine inertia; metritis
3 Dermatologic	13	9.1	Dermatitis; alopecia; pyotraumatic dermatitis
4 Cardiac	8	5.6	Heart murmur (grade 1>rest); cardiomegaly; heart rhythm disorder
5 Immune mediated	8	5.6	Flea allergy; AIHA; gluten-sensitive enteropathy; food hypersensitivity
6 Endocrine	7	4.9	Hypothyroidism
7 Ocular	7	4.9	Cataracts; KCS; epiphora; red eye
8 Dental	6	4.2	Defect other than extra teeth; retained puppy teeth; missing teeth
9 Gastrointestinal	5	3.5	Colitis; haemorrhagic; pancreatitis
10 Benign neoplasia	4	2.8	Lipoma
11 Cancer	4	2.8	Unspecified (mammary); carcinoma (mammary; anal gland)
12 Respiratory	4	2.8	Kennel cough; bronchitis; noisy breathing
13 Aural	3	2.1	Otitis externa
14 Neurologic	3	2.1	Deafness; IVDD; facial paralysis
15 Urologic	3	2.1	Cystitis; cystouroliths (unspecified)
16 Anal gland	2	1.4	Anal sacculitis
17 Unknown	2	1.4	Undiagnosed illness
18 Behaviour	1	0.7	Unspecified
19 Haematopoietic	1	0.7	Haemophilia A
20 Trauma	1	0.7	Musculoskeletal
21 Other	1	0.7	Uncodeable
Total	143	100.0	