

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

Summary results of the
Purebred Dog Health Survey
for Whippets

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%.

Whippets

A total of 846 forms were sent out and 374 were returned, representing 1214 live dogs. This breed had a 44.2% response rate (374/846) and it represented 2.72% of all returns (374/13,741).

Mortality data

A total of 486 deaths were reported and this represents 3.06% of all deaths reported in the survey (486/15,881). The median age at death for Whippets was 12 years and 10 months (min = 2 months, max = 18 years and 2 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 Whippets. Age at death is presented for the most common causes of death (Figure 2).

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

Cause of death	N	%	Most common specific causes in descending order
1 Old age	130	26.7	Old age & age combinations
2 Cardiac	67	13.8	Heart failure; heart defect unspec.; heart attack; cardiomegaly; MVD
3 Cancer	50	10.3	Unspecified; brain tumour; lymphoma; throat (unspec)
4 Urologic	31	6.4	Kidney failure (chronic>acute)
5 Trauma	28	5.8	Unspecified; road traffic accident; attacked by dog; spinal injury
6 Cerebral vascular	26	5.3	Stroke or cerebral vascular accident
7 Combinations	23	4.7	
8 Neurologic	23	4.7	Seizures; spinal disease (unspec); IVDD
9 Other	15	3.1	Uncodeable; unspecified:
10 Immune mediated	13	2.7	Unspecified; AIHA; thrombocytopaenia
11 Gastrointestinal	11	2.3	Gastroenteritis; pancreatitis; unspecified
12 Unknown	10	2.1	
13 Endocrine	9	1.9	Cushings disease; diabetes mellitus; Addisons disease
14 Hepatic	9	1.9	Liver failure (chronic>acute); cholangiohepatitis
15 Reproductive	6	1.2	Pyometra; prostatic disease
16 Behaviour	5	1.0	Unspecified; aggression; rage syndrome
17 Musculoskeletal	5	1.0	Arthritis; brittle bones from steroids; joint pain
18 Respiratory	5	1.0	Pneumonia; rhinitis; lung lobe torsion; respiratory failure
19 Senility	4	0.8	
20 Internal bleeding	3	0.6	
21 Sudden death	3	0.6	
22 Perioperative	2	0.4	
23 PSS	1	0.2	Portosystemic shunt
24 Collapse	1	0.2	
25 Dermatologic	1	0.2	Chronic skin infections
26 Drowning	1	0.2	
27 Ocular	1	0.2	Glaucoma
28 Poisoning	1	0.2	
29 Septicaemia	1	0.2	
30 Systemic	1	0.2	Allergy to insect bite or sting or snake bite
Total	486	100.0	

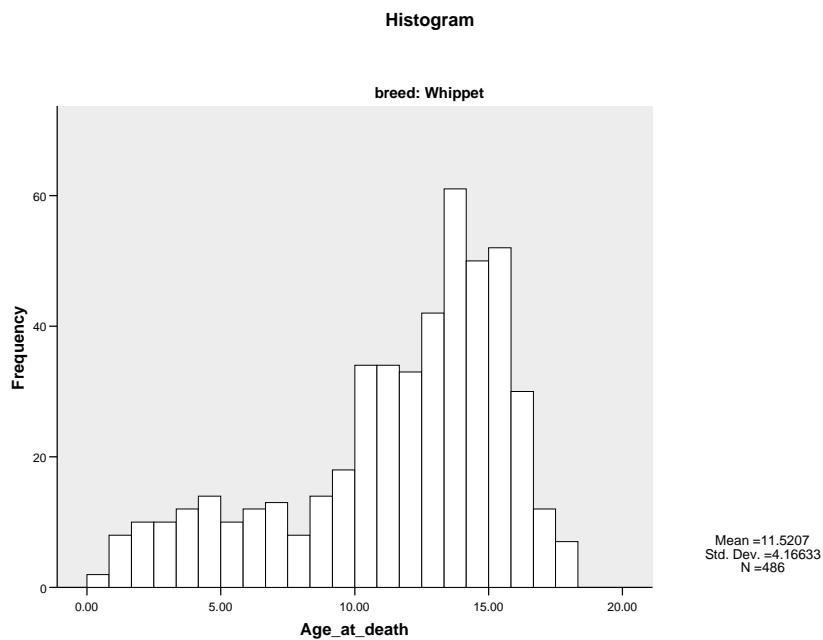


Figure 1. Histogram showing the frequency (as number of dogs) of age at death (in years) for the 486 Whippet deaths with age at death reported.

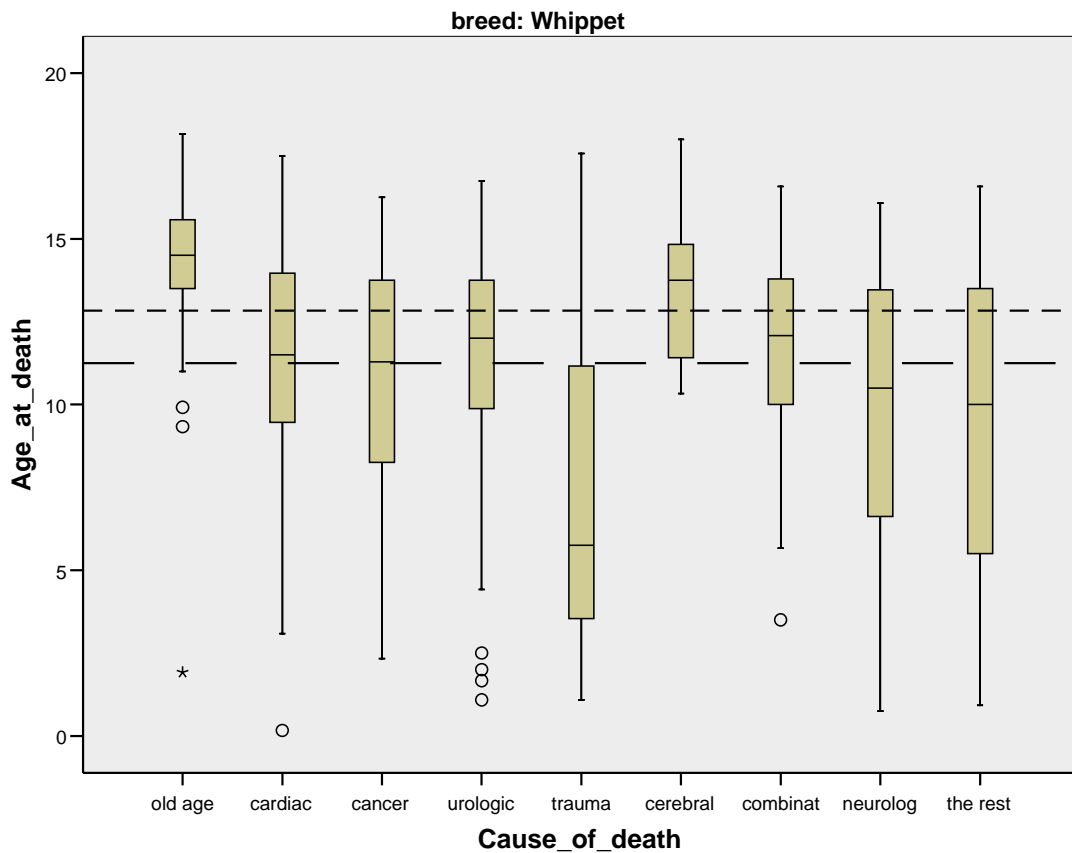


Figure 2. Box and whisker plot of age at death in years for the most common causes of death in Whippets (N=486). The dashed line (---) is the overall median age at death for all dogs in the survey and the dotted line (----) is the overall median age of death for Whippets. The solid line within each grey box represents the median age at death from the condition.

Morbidity data

The median current age of the 1212 live dogs with a reported age was 5 years and 0 months (min=2 months, max=16 years and 3 months, Figure 3). Health information was reported for 1214 live dogs of which 920 (76%) were healthy and 294 (24%) had at least one reported health condition, resulting in a total of 440 reported conditions with a median of 1 condition/dog (min=1, max=8).

The median current age of all healthy dogs with a reported age (N=920) was 4 years and 3 months (min=2 months, max=16 years and 3 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=283) was 8 years (min=6 months, max=15 years and 6 months). The median age at diagnosis for all disease occurrences with a reported age at diagnosis (N=423) was 4 years and 11 months (min= 2 months, max= 15 years and 2 months, Figure 4). Table 3 shows the disease conditions for Whippets. Age at diagnosis is presented for the most common disease conditions (Figure 5).

Table 2. Distribution of gender and neuter status for 1199 Whippets with reported gender and neuter status.

Gender	Neuter status		Totals
	Intact	Neutered	
Female	492	209	701 (58%)
Male	391	107	498 (42%)
Totals	883 (74%)	316 (26%)	1199 (100%)

Significantly more females were neutered (P=0.0013).

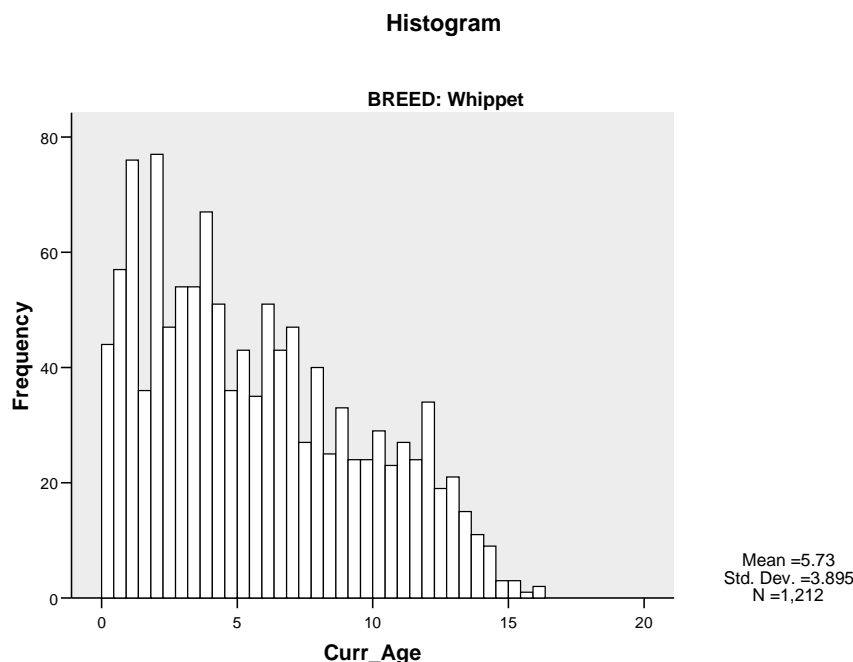


Figure 3. Histogram showing frequency of current age in years for the 1212 live Whippets with age reported.

Histogram

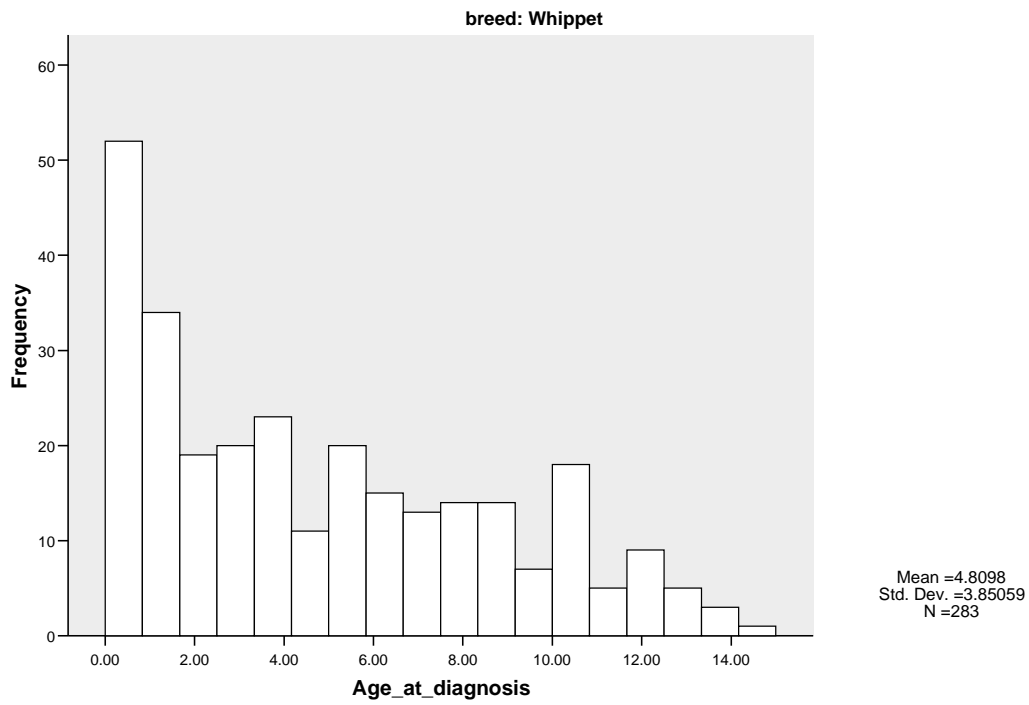


Figure 4. Histogram showing frequency of age at diagnosis for the 283 Whippets with one or more disease conditions, using the youngest age at which a disease condition was first reported for those dogs with more than one disease condition or episode.

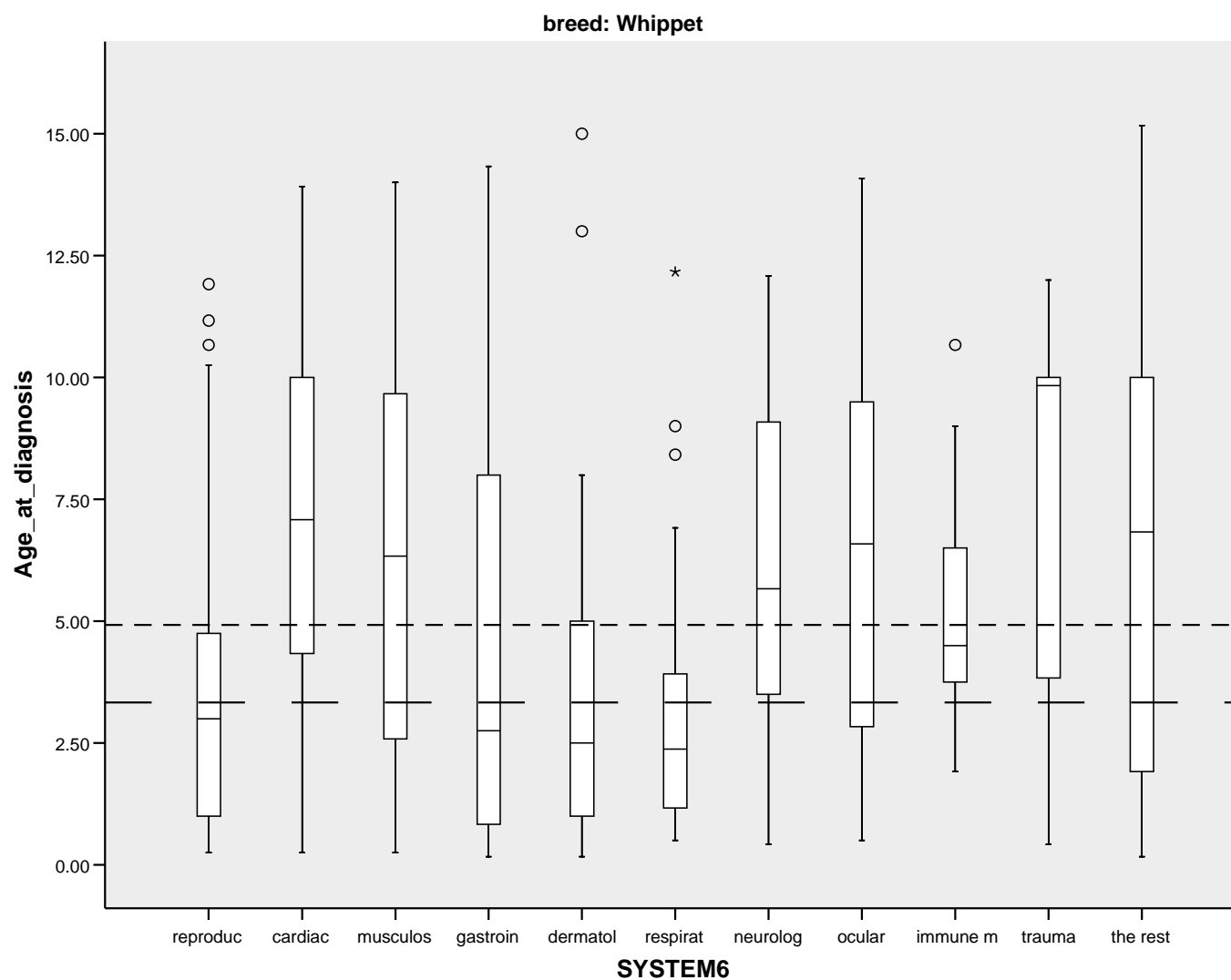


Figure 5. Box and whisker plot of age at diagnosis in years for the most common disease conditions in descending order for Whippets (N=283 dogs with 423 conditions with age reported). The dashed line (---) is the overall median age at diagnosis for all dogs in the survey and the dotted line (----) is the overall median age at diagnosis for Whippets. 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 Whippets.

Disease condition	All conditions		Most common specific conditions in descending order
	N	%	
1 Reproductive	78	17.7	Cryptorchid; pyometra; infertility; false pregnancy; dystochia (uterine inertia>physical blockage)
2 Cardiac	57	13.0	Heart murmur (unspecified>without clinical signs>grade 3>rest); CHF; MVD
3 Musculoskeletal	49	11.1	Arthritis (unspecified=hindlimb>shoulder>rest); fracture (forelimb>rest); lameness (forelimb)
4 Gastrointestinal	36	8.2	Colitis; pancreatitis; diarrhoea; IBD; gastric dilatation/volvulus (GDV); vomiting
5 Dermatologic	32	7.3	Alopecia; dermatitis; mites (cheyletiella); interdigital cysts; ringworm
6 Respiratory	31	7.0	Kennel cough; rhinitis; asthma; bronchitis; coughing; long soft palate
7 Neurologic	27	6.1	IVDD (cervical>unspecified>lumbar); seizures; meningitis
8 Ocular	24	5.5	Cataracts; epiphora; conjunctivitis; KCS; corneal ulcer
9 Immune mediated	18	4.1	Allergy other (unspecified); autoimmune disorder (unspecified); thrombocytopenia
10 Trauma	14	3.2	Skin; other (unspecified); hind limb; spinal cord; forepaw; spine; tail; urinary tract
11 Urologic	13	3.0	Cystitis; incontinence; kidney stones (unspecified=struvite)
12 Cancer	12	2.7	Type unspecified; carcinoma (foreleg); myosarcoma (flank); spindle cell (skin of forelimb)
13 Benign neoplasia	10	2.3	Lipoma; cyst; histiocytoma (skin); adenoma (anal); haemangiopericytoma (hip)
14 Endocrine	10	2.3	Hypothyroidism; Addison's disease; hair loss (undiagnosed)
15 Unknown	9	2.0	Unknown; undiagnosed liver disease
16 Dental	7	1.6	Dental disease
17 Other	6	1.4	Uncodeable
18 Cerebrovascular	4	0.9	Stroke or cerebral vascular accident
19 Haematopoietic	3	0.7	Anaemia unspecified
Total	440	100.0	

CHF=congestive heart failure