

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

Summary results of the
Purebred Dog Health Survey
for English Setters

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%.

English Setters

A total of 952 forms were sent out and 254 were returned, representing 633 live dogs. This breed had a 26.7% response rate (254/952) and it represented 1.85% of all returns (254/13,741).

Mortality data

A total of 384 deaths were reported and this represents 2.42% of all deaths reported in the survey (384/15,881). The median age at death for English Setters was 11 years and 7 months (min = 10 months, max = 20 years) and this was higher than the overall median of 11 years and 3 months (Figure 1). Table 1 shows the causes of death for English Setters. Age at death is presented for the most common causes of death (Figure 2).

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

Cause of death	N	%	Most common specific causes in descending order
1 Cancer	126	32.8	Mammary; unspecified; brain tumour; liver
2 Old age	72	18.8	Old age & old age combinations
3 Combinations	30	7.8	
4 Cardiac	27	7.0	Heart failure; heart attack; cardiomegaly
5 Urologic	18	4.7	Kidney failure chronic > acute; PLN
6 Neurologic	14	3.6	Seizures; unspecified spinal disease
7 Other	14	3.6	Uncodeable
8 Cerebral vascular	12	3.1	Stroke or cerebral vascular accident
9 Hepatic	10	2.6	Chronic liver failure
10 Gastrointestinal	9	2.3	GDV; pancreatitis; gastroenteritis
11 Endocrine	7	1.8	Diabetes mellitus; Cushings disease
12 Perioperative	7	1.8	
13 Musculoskeletal	6	1.6	Arthritis; cruciate ligament rupture; hip dysplasia
14 Reproductive	5	1.3	Pyometra; prostatomegaly;
15 Trauma	5	1.3	Road traffic accident; unspecified
16 Internal bleeding	4	1.0	
17 Unknown	4	1.0	
18 Poisoning	3	0.8	
19 Respiratory	3	0.8	Respiratory failure; collapsed lung
20 Dermatologic	2	0.5	Chronic ear infections; skin disease unspecified
21 Immune mediated	2	0.5	AIHA; unspecified
22 Collapse	1	0.3	
23 Died	1	0.3	
24 Drowning	1	0.3	
25 Senility	1	0.3	
Total	384	100.0	

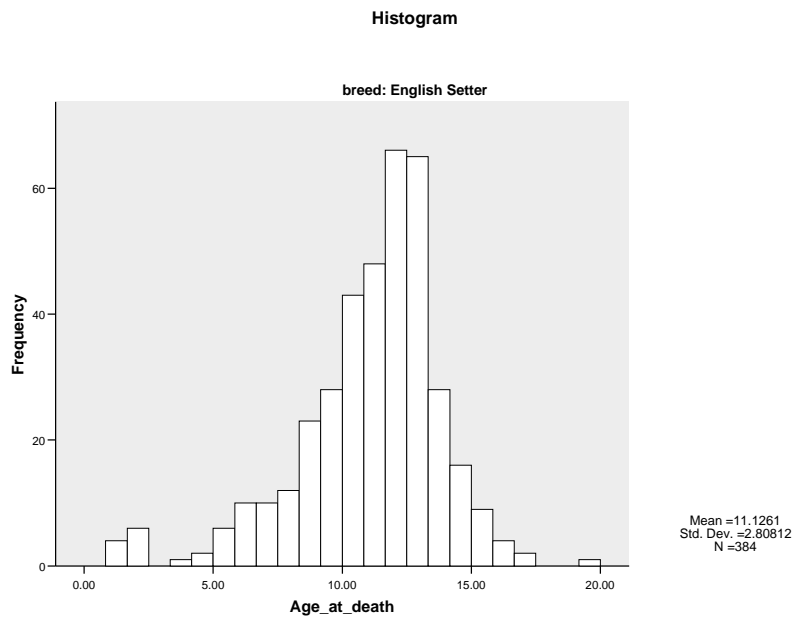


Figure 1. Histogram showing the frequency (as number of dogs) of age at death (in years) for the 384 English Setter deaths with age at death reported.

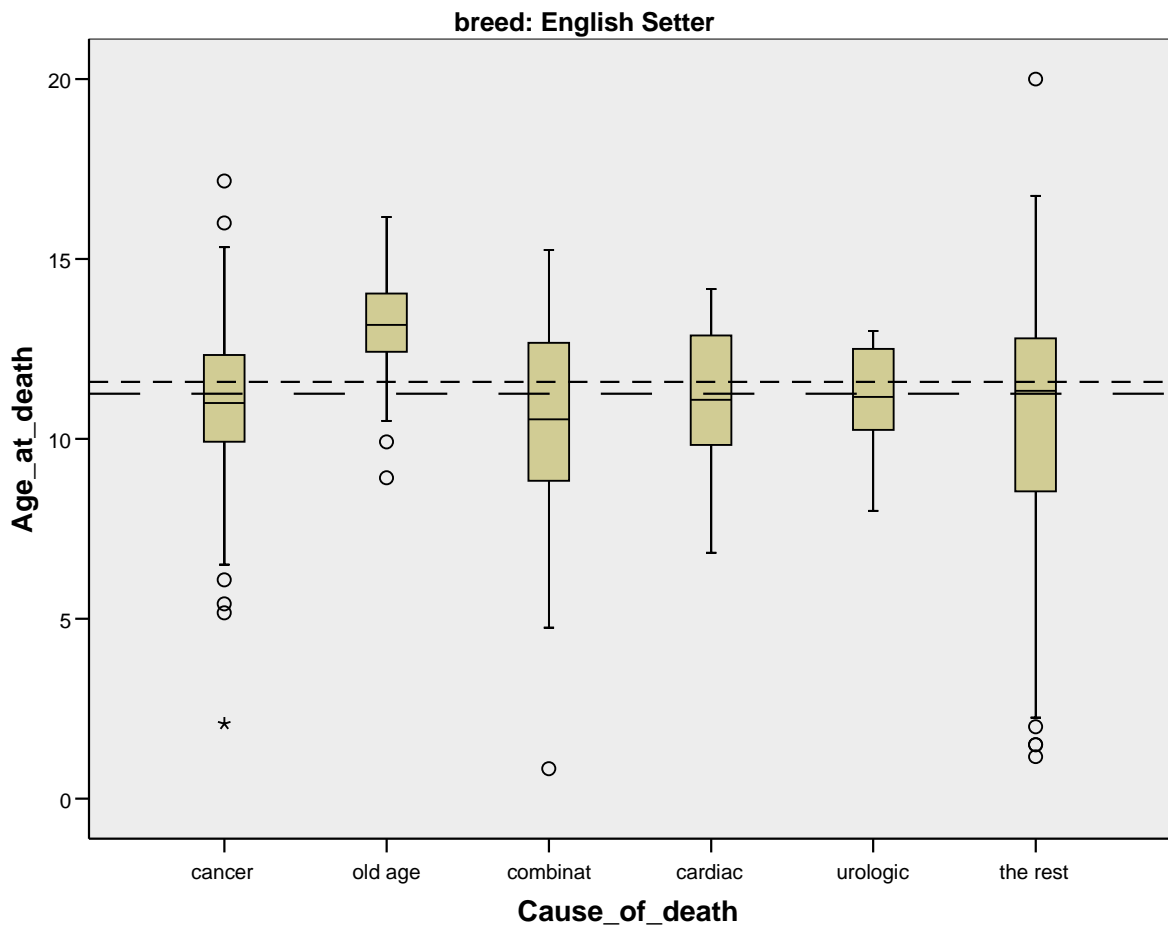


Figure 2. Box and whisker plot of age at death in years for the most common causes of death in English Setters (N=384). The dashed line (---) is the overall median age at death for all dogs in the survey and the dotted line (----) is the overall median age of death for English Setters. The solid line within each grey box represents the median age at death from the condition.

Morbidity data

The median current age of the 632 live dogs with a reported age was 5 years and 6 months (min=1 month, max=18 years, Figure 3). Health information was reported for 633 live dogs of which 328 (52%) were healthy and 305 (48%) had at least one reported health condition, resulting in a total of 571 reported conditions with a median of 1 condition/dog (min=1, max=7).

The median current age of all healthy dogs with a reported age (N=328) was 3 years and 9 months (min=2 months, max=18 years). 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=304) was 7 years and 3 months (min=1 month, max=16 years and 11 months). The median age at diagnosis for all disease occurrences with a reported age at diagnosis (N=544) was 4 years (min= 1 month, max= 13 years and 4 months, Figure 4). Table 3 shows the disease conditions for English Setters. Age at diagnosis is presented for the most common disease conditions (Figure 5).

Table 2. Distribution of gender and neuter status for 625 English Setters with reported gender and neuter status.

Gender	Neuter status		Totals
	Intact	Neutered	
Female	256	110	366 (59%)
Male	221	38	259 (41%)
Totals	477 (76%)	148 (24%)	625 (100%)

Significantly more females were neutered (P=0.0000).

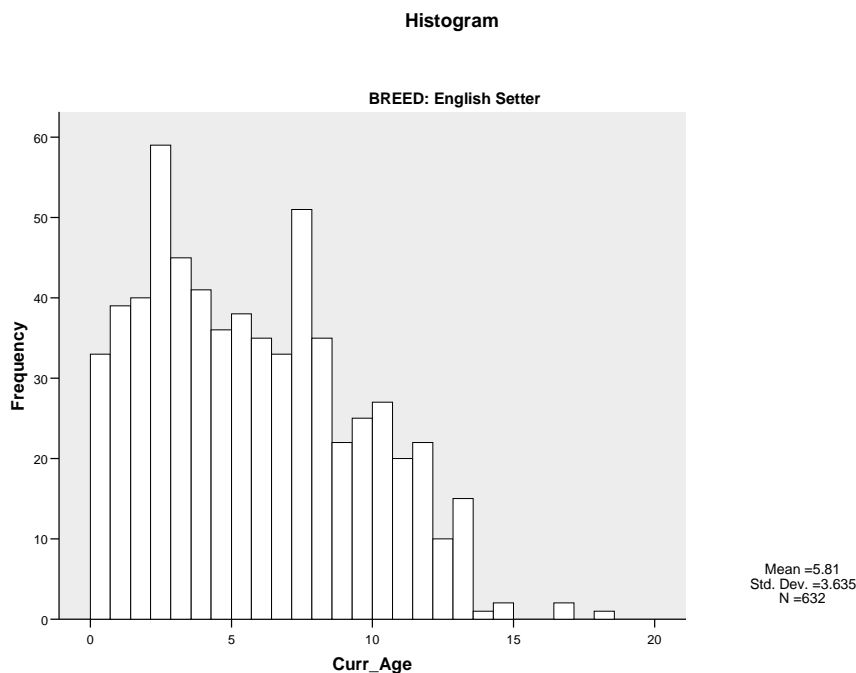


Figure 3. Histogram showing frequency of current age in years for the 632 live English Setters with age reported.

Histogram

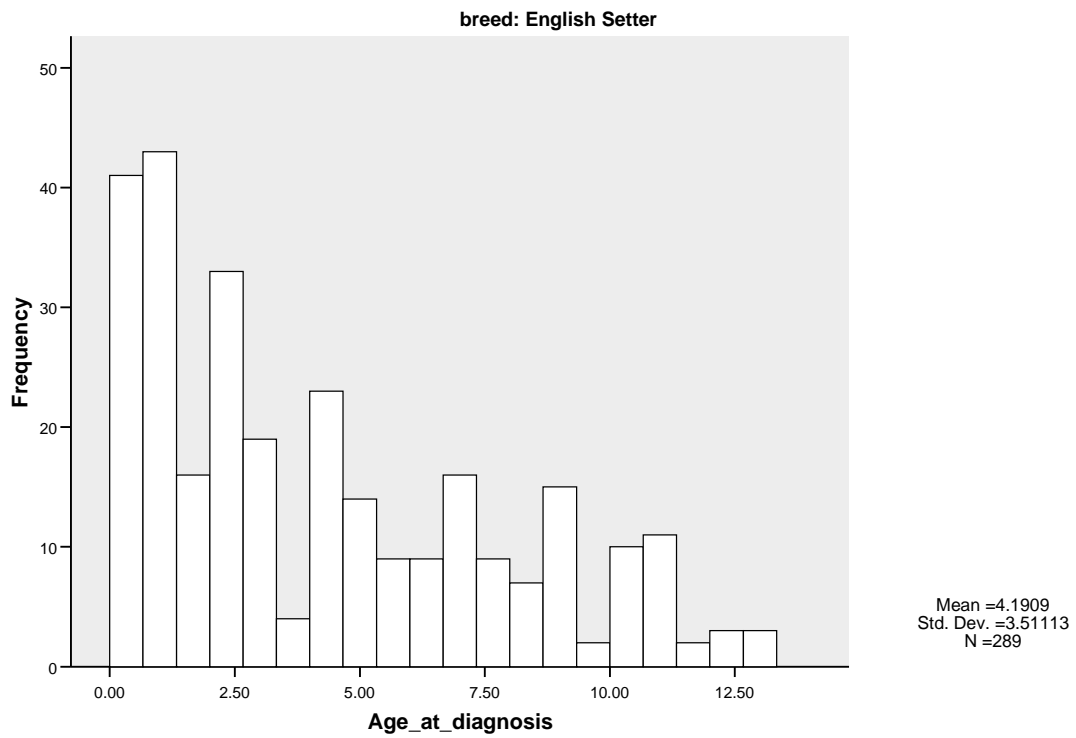


Figure 4. Histogram showing frequency of age at diagnosis for the 289 English Setters with one or more disease conditions, using the youngest age at which a disease condition was first reported for those dogs with more than one disease condition or episode.

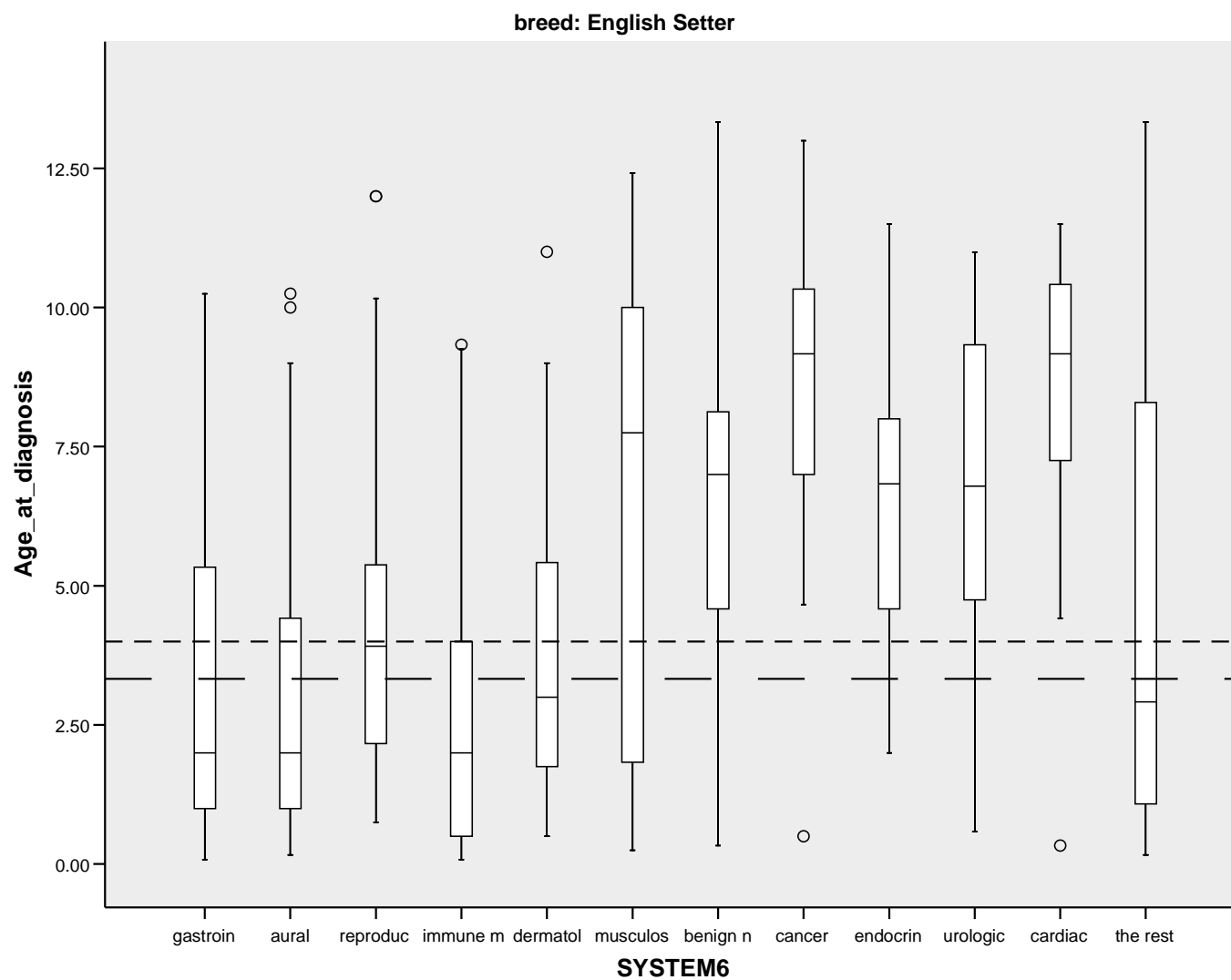


Figure 5. Box and whisker plot of age at diagnosis in years for the most common disease conditions in descending order for English Setters (N=304 dogs with 544 conditions with age reported). The dashed line (---) is the overall median age at diagnosis for all dogs in the survey and the dotted line (----) is the overall median age at diagnosis for English Setters. 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 English Setters.

Disease condition	All conditions		Most common specific conditions in descending order
	N	%	
1 Gastrointestinal	72	12.6	Colitis; diarrhoea (chronic>acute); foreign body obstruction; IBD; pancreatitis; vomiting
2 Aural	65	11.4	Otitis externa; ear mites; excessive ear wax
3 Reproductive	59	10.3	Pyometra; irregular heat cycle; uterine inertia; infertility; false pregnancy
4 Immune mediated	58	10.2	Atopy; unspecified; food hypersensitivity; gluten-sensitive enteropathy; flea allergy
5 Dermatologic	52	9.1	Dermatitis; mites (sarcoptes>demodex); recurrent pyoderma; alopecia
6 Musculoskeletal	46	8.1	Arthritis (hips>unspecified>elbows=stifle>shoulders); CHD; lameness (forelimb)
7 Benign neoplasia	35	6.1	Lipoma; unspecified (mammary; spleen); histiocytoma
8 Respiratory	32	5.6	Kennel cough; noisy breathing
9 Cancer	30	5.3	Unspecified (mammary; testicular); mast cell tumour (MCT)
10 Endocrine	26	4.6	Hypothyroidism
11 Urologic	26	4.6	Cystitis; incontinence; cystouroliths (unspecified; struvite); protein losing enteropathy (PLN)
12 Cardiac	18	3.2	Heart murmur; heart rhythm disorder; atrial fibrillation; dilated cardiomyopathy; MVD
13 Ocular	13	2.3	Cataracts; KCS
14 Unknown	11	1.9	Undiagnosed illness
15 Neurologic	8	1.4	Seizures; deafness; Horner's syndrome; myasthenia gravis; vestibular disease
16 Trauma	6	1.1	Unspecified; urologic; dermatologic
17 Anal gland	4	0.7	Anal sacculitis
18 Other	3	0.5	Malignant hyperthermia; hyperactive; umbilical hernia
19 Behaviour	2	0.4	Unspecified
20 Cerebrovascular	2	0.4	Stroke or cerebral vascular accident
21 Dental	2	0.4	Defect other than extra teeth
22 Hepatic	1	0.2	Hepatitis
Total	571	100.0	