

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

Summary results of the
Purebred Dog Health Survey
for British Bulldogs

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%.

British Bulldogs

A total of 841 forms were sent out and 143 were returned, representing 403 live dogs. This breed had a 17.0 % response rate (143/841) and it represented 1.04% of all returns (143/13,741).

Mortality data

A total of 180 deaths were reported and this represents 1.13 % of all deaths reported in the survey (180/15,881). The median age at death for British Bulldogs was 6 years and 3 months (min = 10 months, max = 14 years and 5 months) and this was lower than the overall median of 11 years and 3 months (Figure 1). Table 1 shows the causes of death for British Bulldogs. Age at death is presented for the most common causes of death (Figure 2).

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

Cause of death	N	%	Most common specific causes in descending order
1 Cardiac	36	20.0	Heart attack; heart failure; heart defect unspecified
2 Cancer	33	18.3	Lymphoma; type unspecified
3 Old age	16	8.9	Old age unspecified; old age natural causes
4 Cerebral vascular	8	4.4	Stroke or cerebral vascular accident
5 Perioperative	8	4.4	
6 Respiratory	8	4.4	Pneumonia; respiratory failure; unspecified
7 Unknown	8	4.4	
8 Hyperthermia	6	3.3	
9 Other	6	3.3	Uncodeable
10 Reproductive	6	3.3	Pyometra; metritis
11 Behaviour	5	2.8	Unspecified behavioural problem; aggression
12 Gastrointestinal	5	2.8	GDV; foreign body obstruction; megaesophagus
13 Neurologic	5	2.8	Seizures; IVDD
14 Sudden death	4	2.2	
15 Urologic	4	2.2	Kidney failure (chronic > acute)
16 Hepatic	3	1.7	Liver disease unspecified; acute liver failure
17 Musculoskeletal	3	1.7	Arthritis; hip dysplasia; joint pain
18 Collapse	2	1.1	
19 Combinations	2	1.1	Pneumonia & heart failure; heat stroke & heart defect
20 Dermatologic	2	1.1	Chronic ear infections; skin disease
21 Trauma	2	1.1	Unspecified
22 Died	1	0.6	
23 Drowning	1	0.6	
24 Infection	1	0.6	Toxoplasmosis
25 Ocular	1	0.6	Blindness
26 Pining	1	0.6	
27 Poisoning	1	0.6	
28 Septicaemia	1	0.6	
29 Systemic	1	0.6	Allergy to insect bite or sting or snake bite
Total	180	100.0	

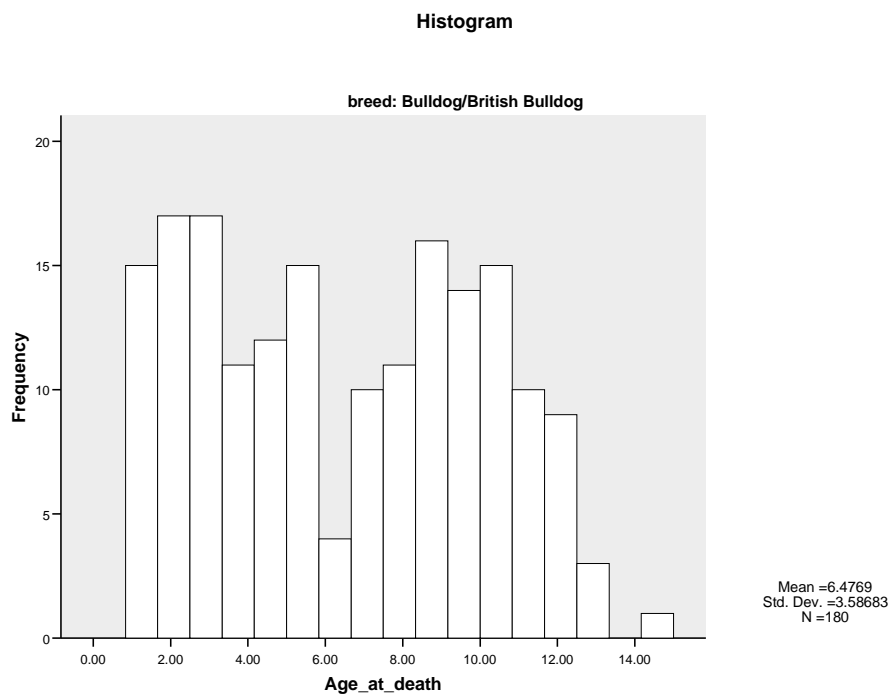


Figure 1. Histogram showing the frequency (as number of dogs) of age at death (in years) for the 180 Bulldog/British Bulldog deaths with age at death reported.

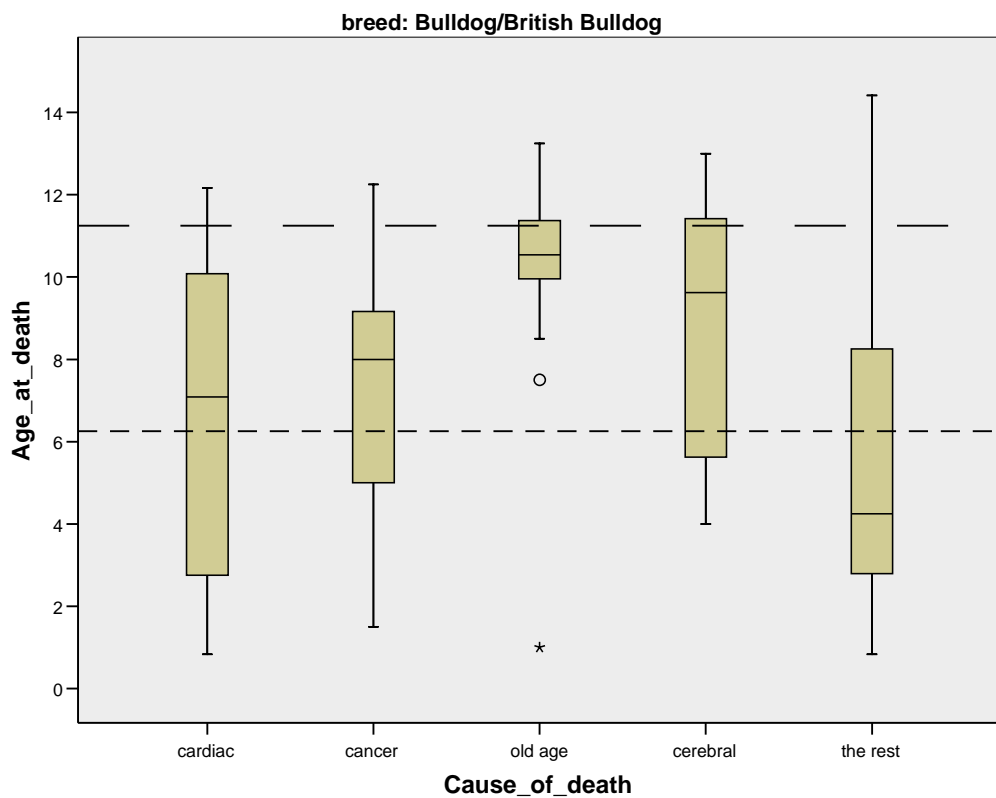


Figure 2. Box and whisker plot of age at death in years for the most common causes of death in British Bulldogs (N=180). The dashed line (---) is the overall median age at death for all dogs in the survey and the dotted line (----) is the overall median age of death for British Bulldogs. The solid line within each grey box represents the median age at death from the condition.

Morbidity data

The median current age of the 403 live dogs with a reported age was 3 years and 1 month (min=1 month, max=13 years and 4 months, Figure 3). Health information was reported for 403 live dogs of which 217 (54%) were healthy and 186 (46%) had at least one reported health condition, resulting in a total of 316 reported conditions with a median of 1 condition/dog (min=1, max=6).

The median current age of all healthy dogs with a reported age (N=217) was 2 years and 3 months (min=1 month, max=11 years and 4 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=184) was 4 years and 2 months (min=3 months, max=13 years and 4 months). The median age at diagnosis for all disease occurrences with a reported age at diagnosis (N=294) was 1 year and 4 months (min=1 month, max=11 years and 4 months, Figure 4). Table 3 shows the disease conditions for British Bulldogs. Age at diagnosis is presented for the most common disease conditions (Figure 5).

Table 2. Distribution of gender and neuter status for 403 British Bulldogs with reported gender and neuter status.

Gender	Neuter status		Totals
	Intact	Neutered	
Female	230	36	266 (66%)
Male	118	19	137 (34%)
Totals	348 (86%)	55 (14%)	403 (100%)

There was no association between gender and neuter status (P=0.9261).

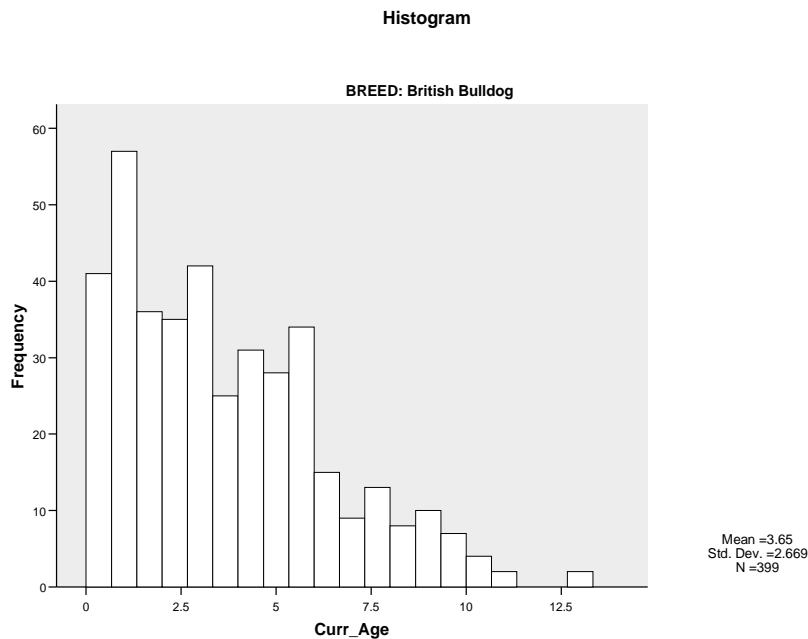


Figure 3. Histogram showing frequency of current age in years for the 399 live British Bulldogs with age reported.

Histogram

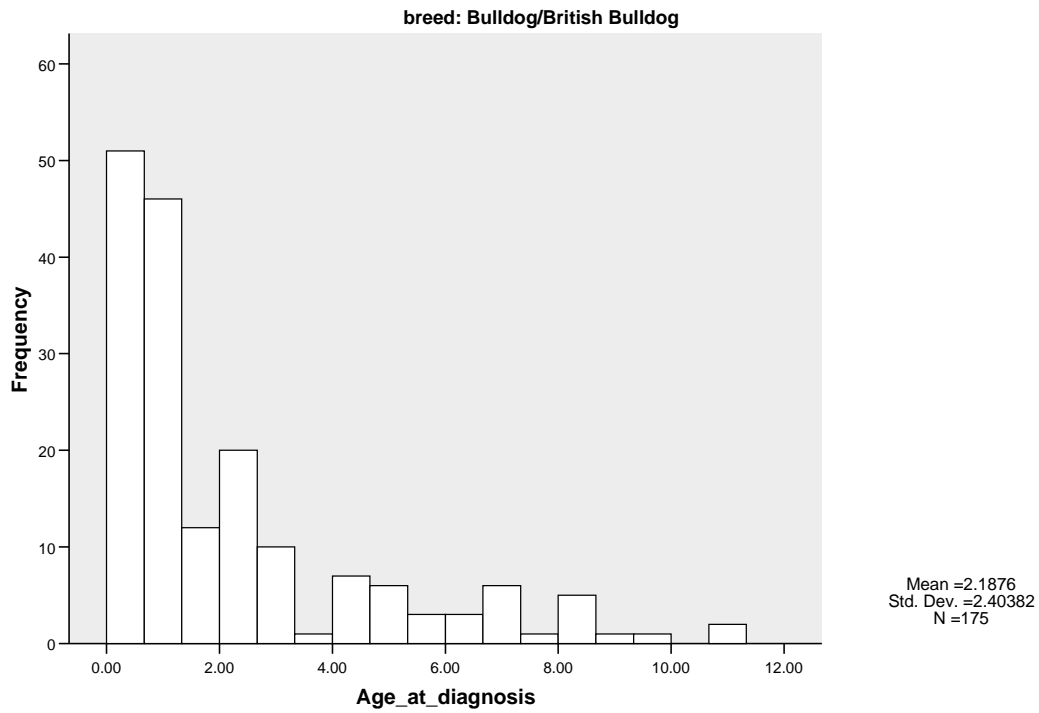


Figure 4. Histogram showing frequency of age at diagnosis for the 175 British Bulldogs with one or more disease conditions, using the youngest age at which a disease condition was first reported for those dogs with more than one disease condition or episode.

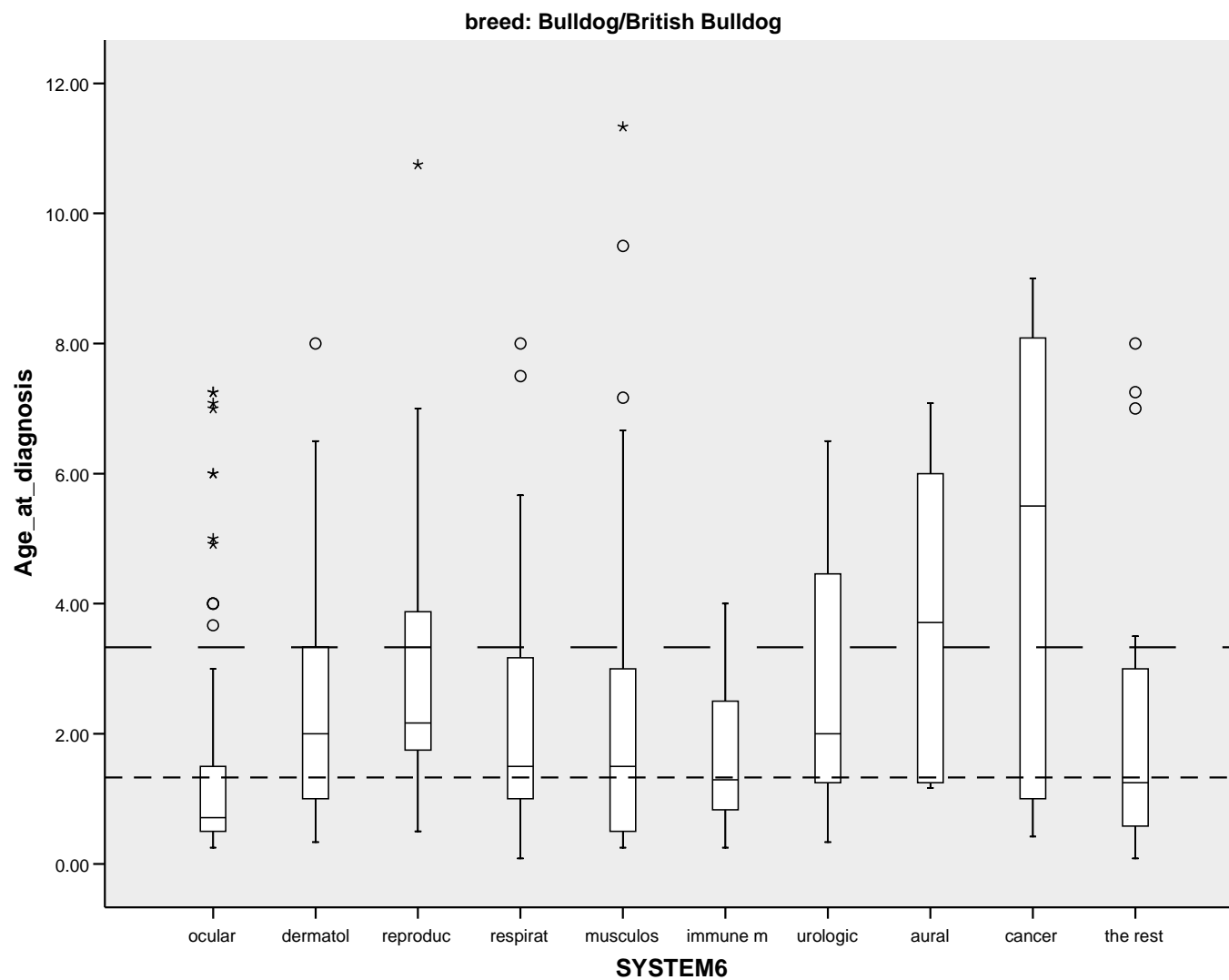


Figure 5. Box and whisker plot of age at diagnosis in years for the most common disease conditions in descending order for British Bulldogs (N=184 dogs with 294 conditions with age reported). The dashed line (---) is the overall median age at diagnosis for all dogs in the survey and the dotted line (----) is the overall median age at diagnosis for British Bulldogs. 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 British Bulldogs.

Disease condition	All conditions		Most common specific conditions in descending order
	N	%	
1 Ocular	100	31.6	Cherry eye; entropion; KCS; corneal ulcer; distichiasis; epiphora; red eye
2 Dermatologic	48	15.2	Alopecia; mites (demodex> sarcoptes); dermatitis; pyotraumatic dermatitis
3 Reproductive	34	10.8	Dystochia (uterine inertia=stuck puppy); infertility; false pregnancy; cryptorchid; pyometra
4 Respiratory	33	10.4	Kennel cough; noisy breathing; rhinitis; long soft palate
5 Musculoskeletal	29	9.2	CLR; arthritis; lameness; CHD; patellar luxation
6 Immune mediated	12	3.8	Flea allergy; atopy; food hypersensitivity
7 Unknown	9	2.8	Undiagnosed illness
8 Cardiac	8	2.5	Heart murmur; collapse; heart rhythm disorder
9 Gastrointestinal	8	2.5	Colitis; regurgitation; vomiting
10 Urologic	7	2.2	Cystitis; cystouroliths (unspecified > struvite)
11 Aural	6	1.9	Otitis externa, ear mites
12 Cancer	6	1.9	Unspecified; lymphoma; sarcoma
13 Neurologic	6	1.9	Seizures; deafness; rage syndrome; unspecified
14 Trauma	6	1.9	Urologic; reproductive; musculoskeletal; neurologic
15 Endocrine	2	0.6	Hypothyroidism
16 Anal gland	1	0.3	Anal sacculitis
17 Behaviour	1	0.3	Unspecified
Total	316	100.0	