

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

Summary results of the
Purebred Dog Health Survey
for Staffordshire Bull Terriers

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%.

Staffordshire Bull Terriers

A total of 833 forms were sent out and 132 were returned, representing 325 live dogs. This breed had a 15.8% response rate (132/833) and it represented 0.96% of all returns (132/13,741).

Mortality data

A total of 117 deaths were reported and this represents 0.74% of all deaths reported in the survey (117/15,881). The median age at death for Staffordshire Bull Terriers was 12 years and 9 months (min = 1 year and 2 months, max = 17 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 Staffordshire Bull Terriers. Age at death is presented for the most common causes of death (Figure 2).

Table 1. Causes of death by organ system/category for Staffordshire Bull Terriers.

Cause of death	N	%	Most common specific causes in descending order
1 Cancer	52	44.4	Type unspecified (stomach); carcinoma
2 Old age	23	19.7	Old age & age combinations
3 Cardiac	8	6.8	Heart failure; disease (unspec); cardiomegaly; MVD
4 Urologic	6	5.1	Kidney failure (chronic>acute)
5 Cerebral vascular	3	2.6	Stroke or cerebral vascular accident
6 Combinations	3	2.6	
7 Neurologic	3	2.6	Seizures
8 Unknown	3	2.6	
9 Behaviour	2	1.7	Aggression
10 Collapse	2	1.7	
11 Gastrointestinal	2	1.7	Colitis; exocrine pancreatic insufficiency
12 Perioperative	2	1.7	
13 Poisoning	2	1.7	
14 Endocrine	1	0.9	Cushings disease
15 Hepatic	1	0.9	Liver failure
16 Musculoskeletal	1	0.9	Dislocated hip
17 Reproductive	1	0.9	Pyometra
18 Respiratory	1	0.9	Bronchitis
19 Trauma	1	0.9	Road traffic accident
Total	117	100.0	

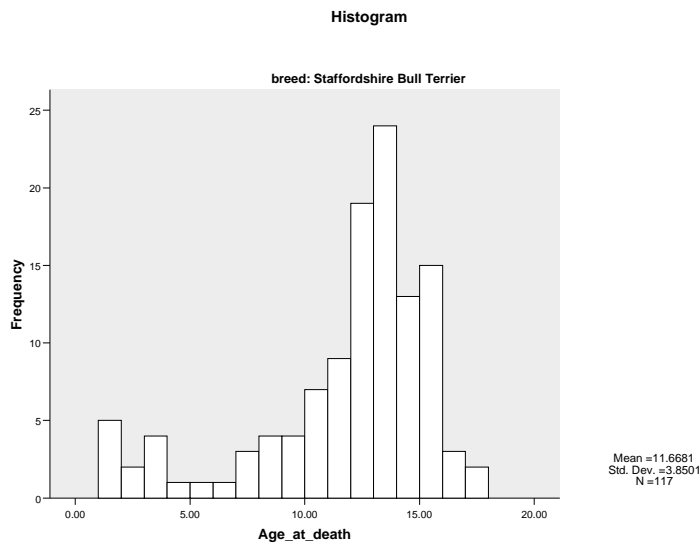


Figure 1. Histogram showing the frequency (as number of dogs) of age at death (in years) for the 117 Staffordshire Bull Terrier deaths with age at death reported.

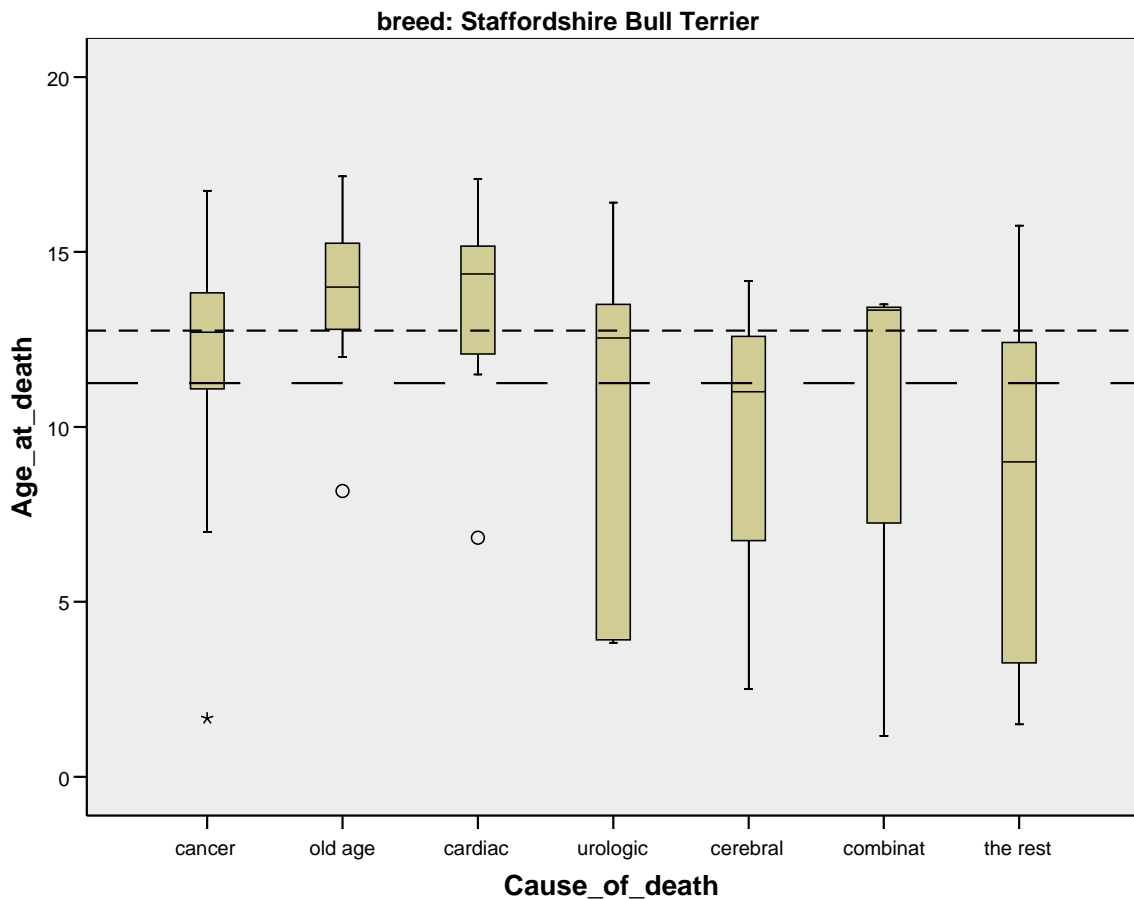


Figure 2. Box and whisker plot of age at death in years for the most common causes of death in Staffordshire Bull Terriers (N=117). The dashed line (---) is the overall median age at death for all dogs in the survey and the dotted line (----) is the overall median age of death for Staffordshire Bull Terriers. The solid line within each grey box represents the median age at death from the condition.

Morbidity data

The median current age of the 323 live dogs with a reported age was 4 years and 2 months (min=2 months, max=17 years and 3 months, Figure 3). Health information was reported for 325 live dogs of which 206 (63%) were healthy and 119 (37%) had at least one reported health condition, resulting in a total of 181 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=206) was 3 years and 1 month (min=2 months, max=17 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=118) was 6 years and 9 months (min=4 months, max=15 years and 10 months). The median age at diagnosis for all disease occurrences with a reported age at diagnosis (N=180) was 2 years (min= 3 months, max= 15 years and 5 months, Figure 4). Table 3 shows the disease conditions for Staffordshire Bull Terriers. Age at diagnosis is presented for the most common disease conditions (Figure 5).

Table 2. Distribution of gender and neuter status for 324 Staffordshire Bull Terriers with reported gender and neuter status.

Gender	Neuter status		Totals
	Intact	Neutered	
Female	119	81	200 (62%)
Male	114	10	124 (38%)
Totals	233 (72%)	91 (28%)	324 (100%)

Significantly more females were neutered (P<0.0001).

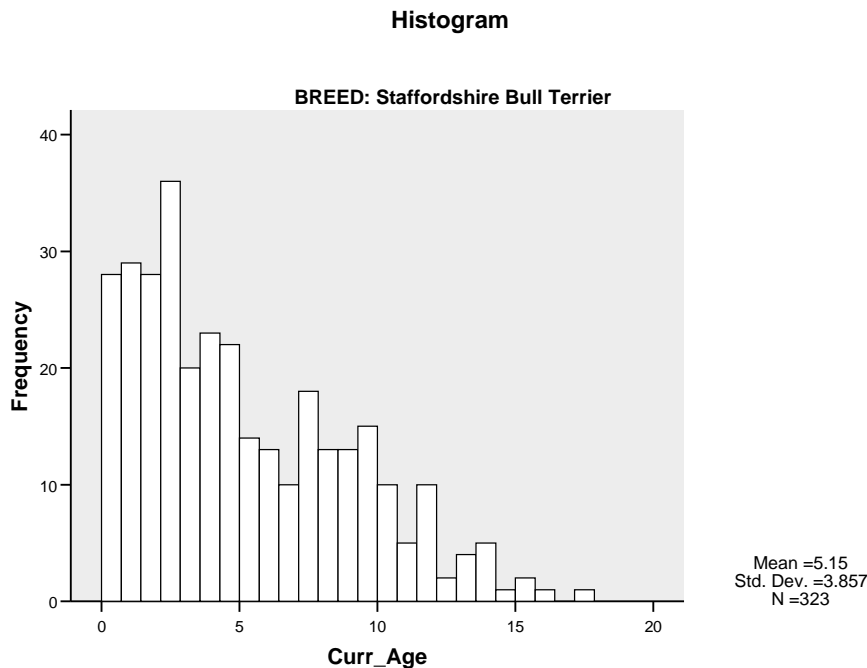


Figure 3. Histogram showing frequency of current age in years for the 323 live Staffordshire Bull Terriers with age reported.

Histogram

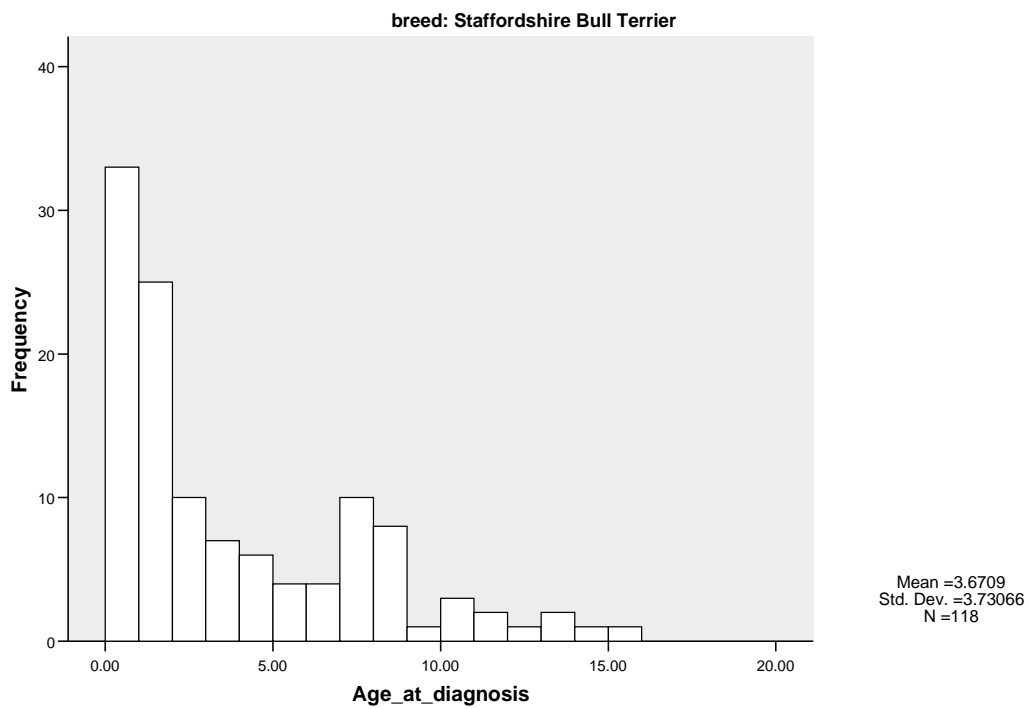


Figure 4. Histogram showing frequency of age at diagnosis for the 118 Staffordshire Bull Terriers with one or more disease conditions, using the youngest age at which a disease condition was first reported for those dogs with more than one disease condition or episode.

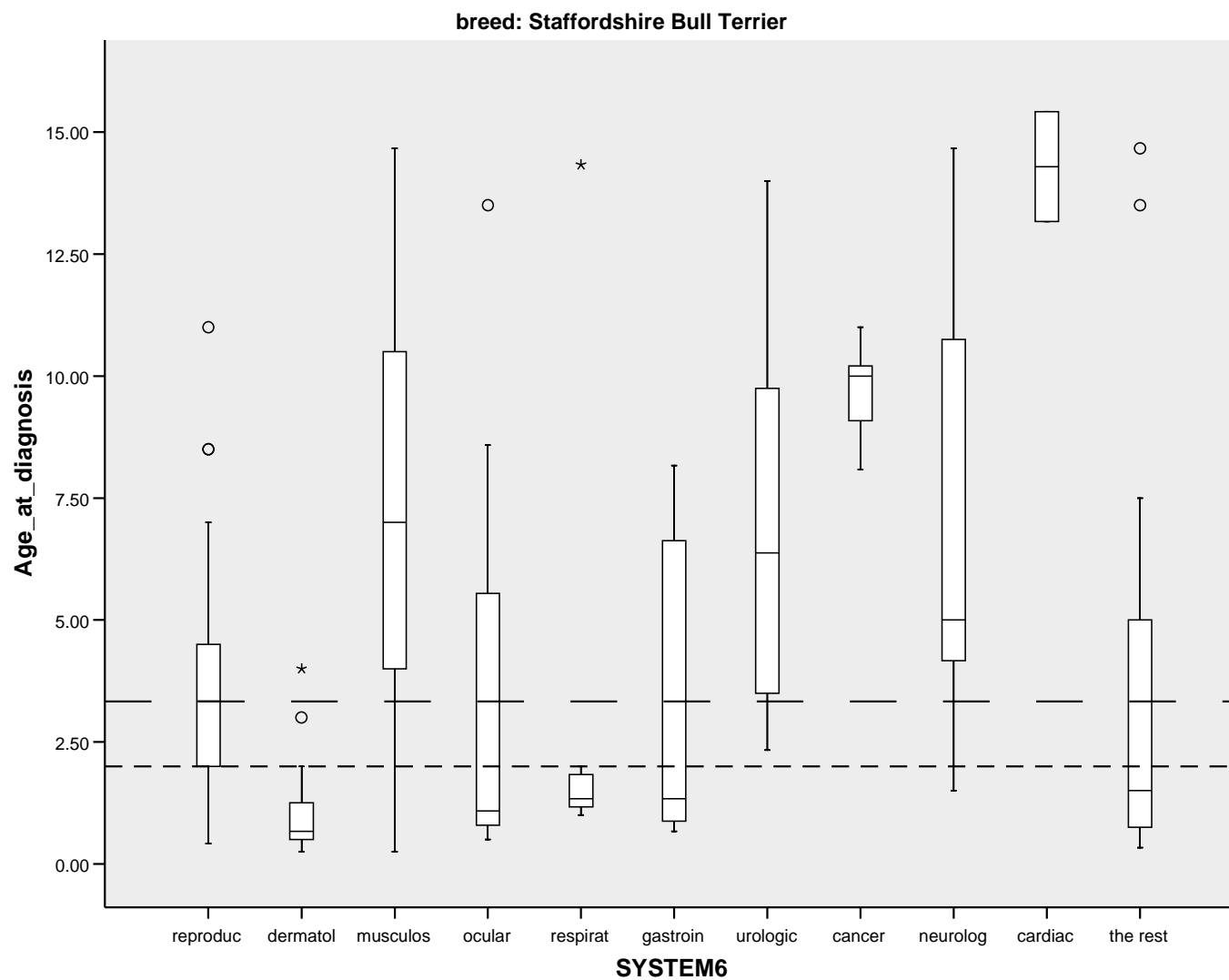


Figure 5. Box and whisker plot of age at diagnosis in years for the most common disease conditions in descending order for Staffordshire Bull Terriers (N=118 dogs with 180 conditions with age reported). The dashed line (---) is the overall median age at diagnosis for all dogs in the survey and the dotted line (----) is the overall median age at diagnosis for Staffordshire Bull Terriers. 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 Staffordshire Bull Terriers.

Disease condition	All conditions		Most common specific conditions in descending order
	N	%	
1 Reproductive	42	23.2	Pyometra; false pregnancy; irregular heat cycles; eclampsia; prostatomegaly
2 Dermatologic	34	18.8	Mites (demodex>sarcoptes=unspecified); dermatitis; atopy
3 Musculoskeletal	27	14.9	Arthritis (hindlimb>forelimb=hip=stifle>rest); CLR; DJD
4 Ocular	12	6.6	Cherry eye; corneal ulcer; distichiasis; epiphora; blindness; conjunctivitis
5 Respiratory	9	5.0	Kennel cough; noisy breathing; breathing difficulties (unspecified)
6 Gastrointestinal	8	4.4	Colitis; diarrhoea; vomiting; chronic gastroenteritis; pancreatitis
7 Immune mediated	8	4.4	Flea allergy; gluten-sensitive enteropathy; unspecified; nut allergy; dust mite allergy
8 Urologic	8	4.4	Cystitis; cystouroliths (unspecified=struvite); incontinence
9 Cancer	7	3.9	Type unspecified (mammary); lymphoma; spindle cell tumour (neck muscle); carcinoma
10 Dental	7	3.9	Retained puppy teeth; defect other than extra teeth; extra teeth; dental disease
11 Neurologic	7	3.9	Seizures; deafness; IVDD (unspecified)
12 Trauma	3	1.7	Unspecified; spine
13 Unknown	3	1.7	Undiagnosed illness
14 Cardiac	2	1.1	Heart murmur unspecified
15 Endocrine	2	1.1	Cushings disease
16 Cardiopulmonary	1	0.6	Pulmonary oedema
17 Hepatic	1	0.6	Chronic liver disease
Total	181	100.0	