



Field Spaniel Health Survey 2023 Overall Summary

The top categories of diagnosis for health conditions reported in the survey are shown in the table below.

Table 1: Top categories of diagnosis for health conditions reported in the survey

Body system	Number affected	Prevalence
Ear	62	33.9%
Digestive	52	28.7%
Cancers	48	26.4%
Skin and/or coat	44	24.3%
Muscles, bones and joints	40	22.0%

The most frequently reported specific conditions are shown in Table 2 below.

Table 2: Top specific health conditions reported in the survey

Specific condition	Number affected
Recurrent ear infections	28
Excessive ear wax	25
Kennel Cough	21
Food allergies/ intolerance	21
Tail injury	20
Itchiness/ skin irritation	16
Sebaceous cysts	11
Chronic diarrhoea	11
Mammary tumour	11
Benign lump	10
Allergies (dust, mites, pollen etc.)	9
Allergies (food)	9
Otitis externa	9
Arthritis	8
Anal sac impaction/ infection	8

Field Spaniel Health Survey 2023

The Field Spaniel Health Survey ran from February to June 2023. In total, 184 responses were received for individual dogs.

When asked where the dog was born, the most commonly reported country was the UK, with a full breakdown shown in Figure 1 below (n=179).

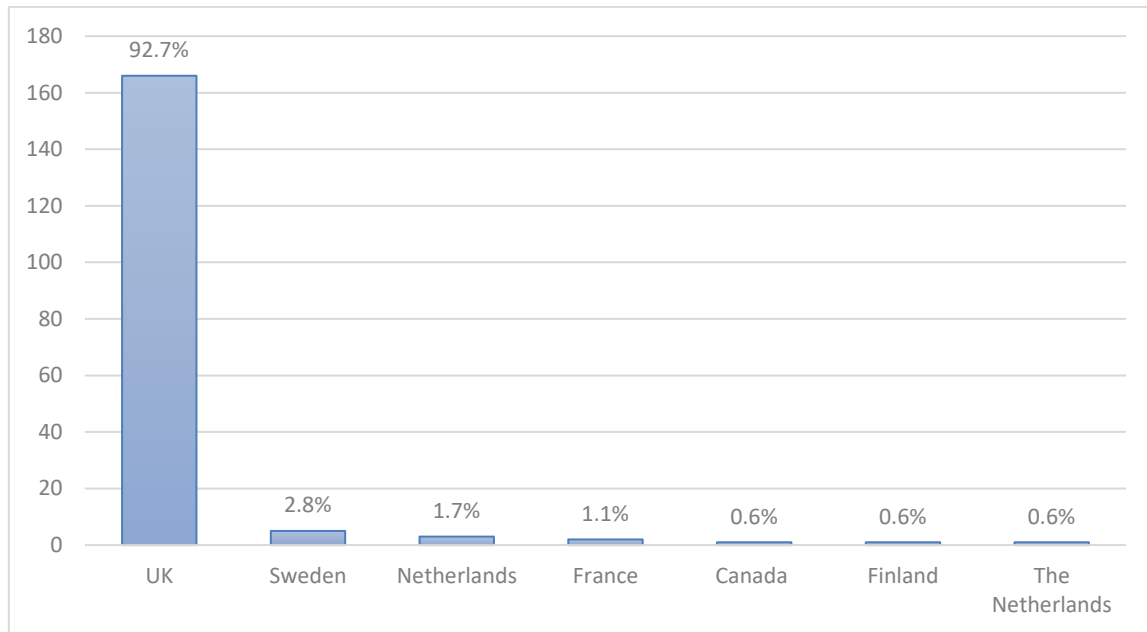


Figure 1: Where owners reported their dog was born.

Owners were also asked to report where their dog is living now, with the majority again being the UK. The remaining countries are shown in Figure 3 below (n=183).

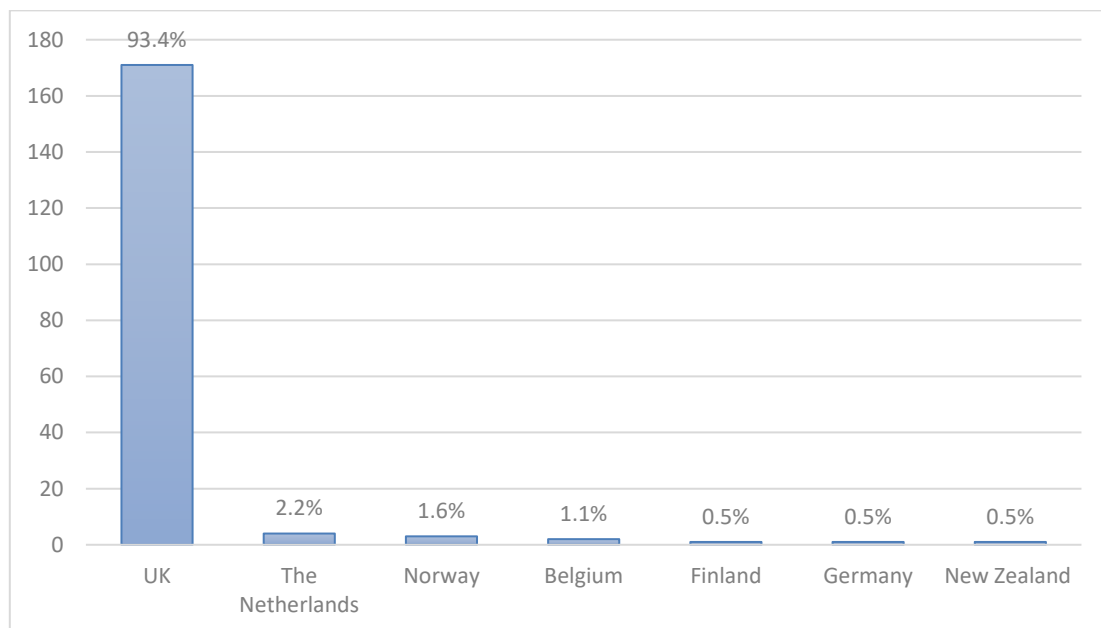


Figure 2: Reported countries where dogs are currently living.

Figure 3 shows a full breakdown of the year of birth provided for dogs in the survey (n=176).

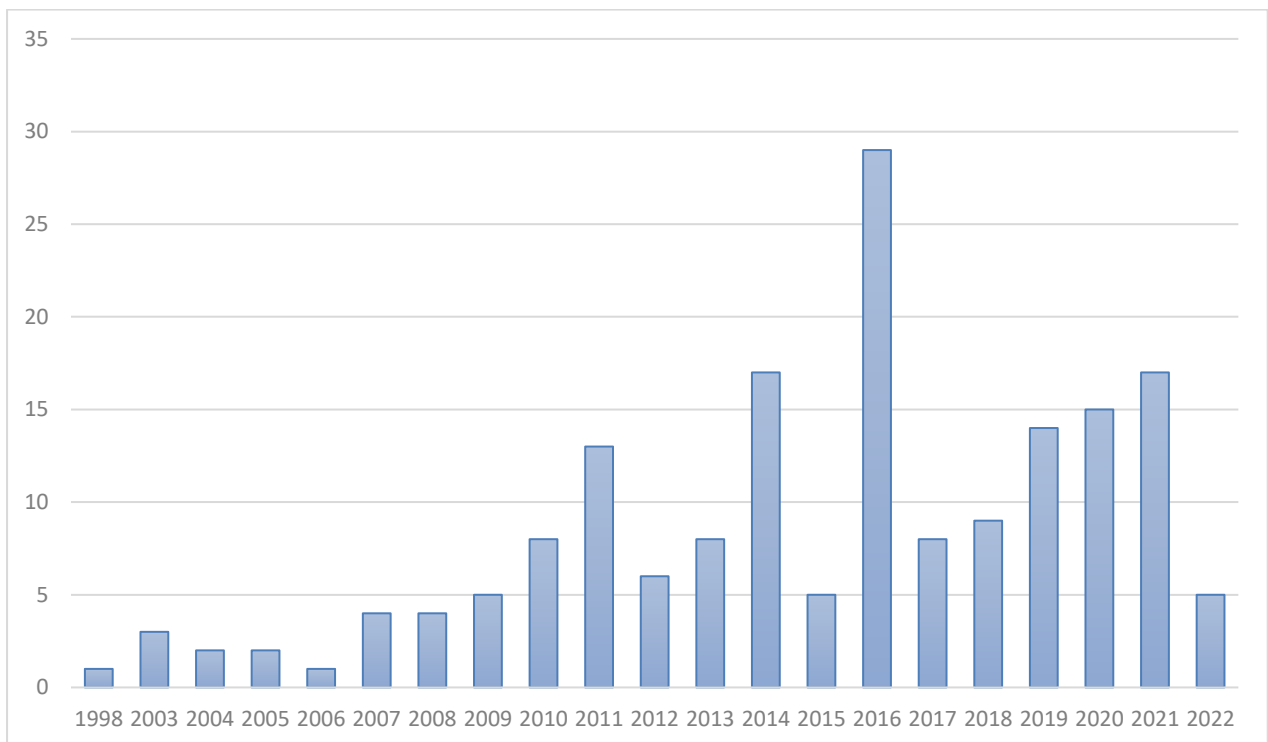


Figure 3: Date of birth of the dogs included in the survey.

When asked the sex of their dog, 97 (52.2%) were reported to be male and 86 (46.2%) were female. When asked the neutered status of their dog, 95 (52.2%) were entire and 87 (47.8%) were neutered. Results are shown in Table 3.

Table 3: Sex and neutered status of the dogs included in the survey

Sex	Neutered Status		Total
	Entire	Neutered	
Male	63	34	97
Female	32	53	85
Total	95	87	182

Lifestyle

Owners were then asked to report if they routinely vaccinated their dog, with the most common response being “yes” (71.7%, 132 of 184). The remaining responses are shown in Figure 4.

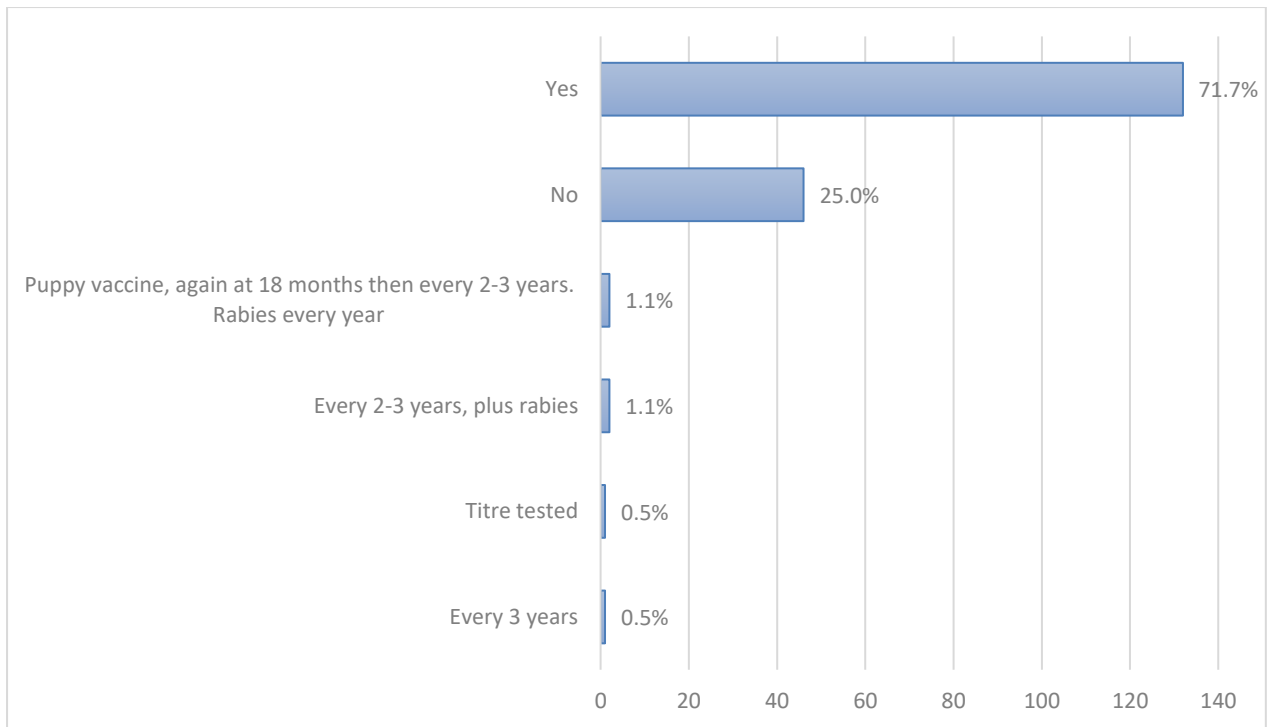


Figure 4: Count of “Is your dog routinely vaccinated?”.

Owners were also asked to report if they routinely treated their dog for fleas, ticks and worms, with the most common response being “yes” (80.3%, 147 of 183). The remaining responses are shown in Figure 5.

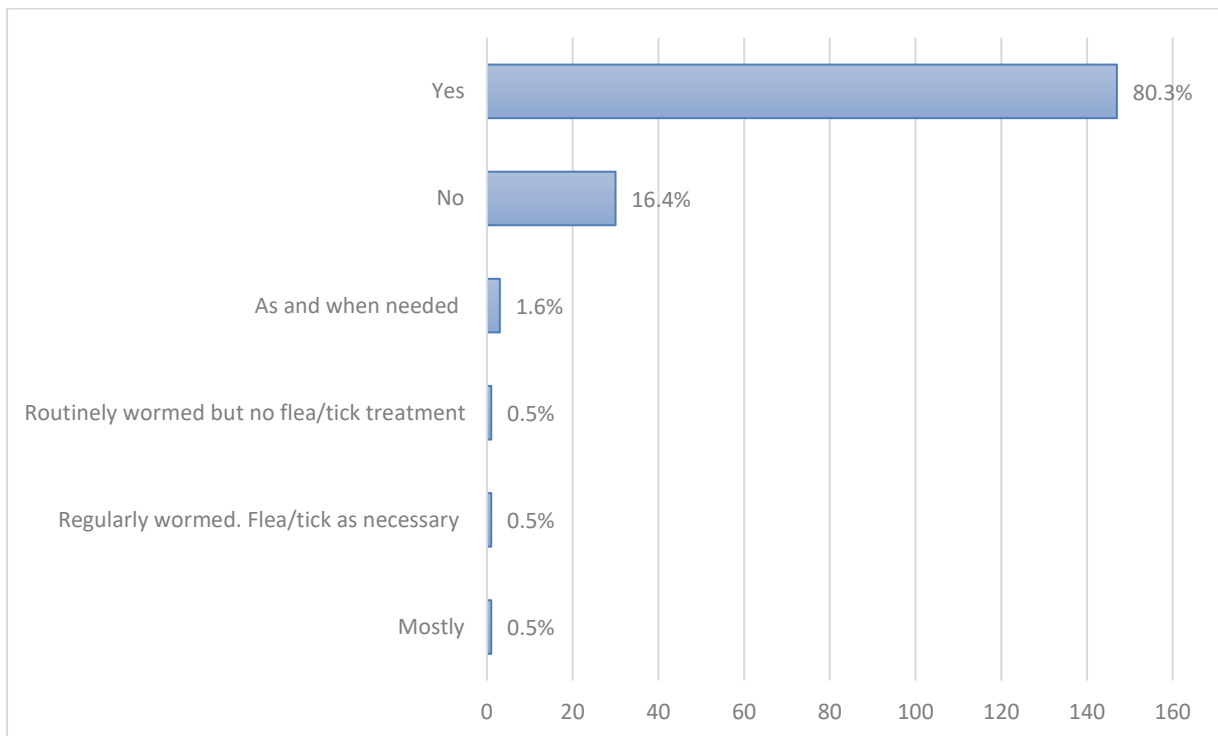


Figure 5: Count of “Is your dog routinely treated with flea/ tick/ worming medication?”.

Figure 6 shows how much exercise the Field Spaniels included in this survey had on a typical day, with the majority (74.9%, n=137) having one to two hours per day. The remaining responses are shown in Figure 5 below.

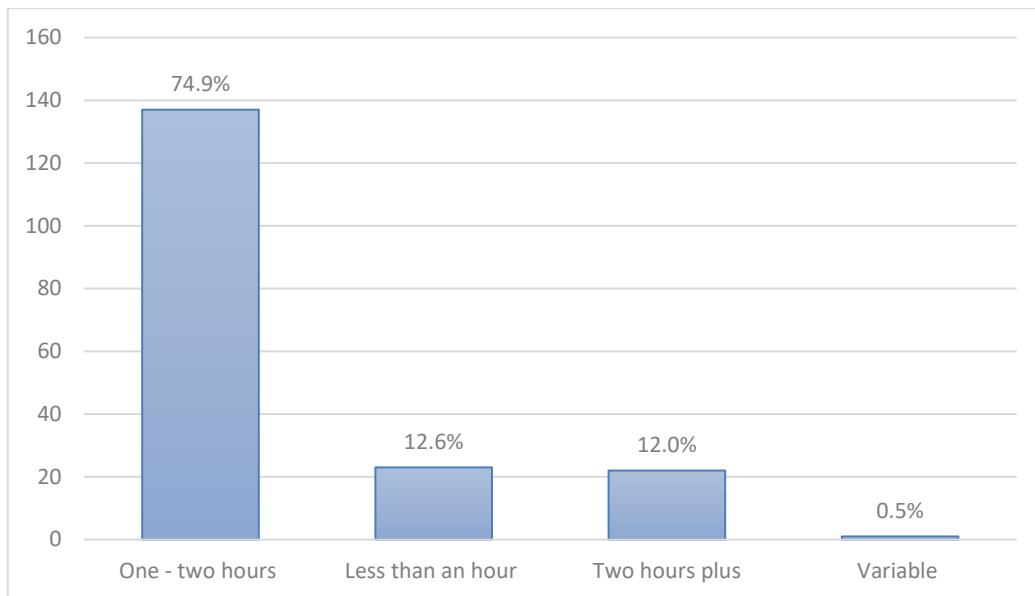


Figure 6: Amount of exercise Field Spaniels were reported to have on a typical day.

Diet

When asked what type of foods owners fed their dogs, the most commonly selected option was kibble (66.8%, n=123), out of a total of 184 options selected. Figure 7 shows the other reported foods reported.

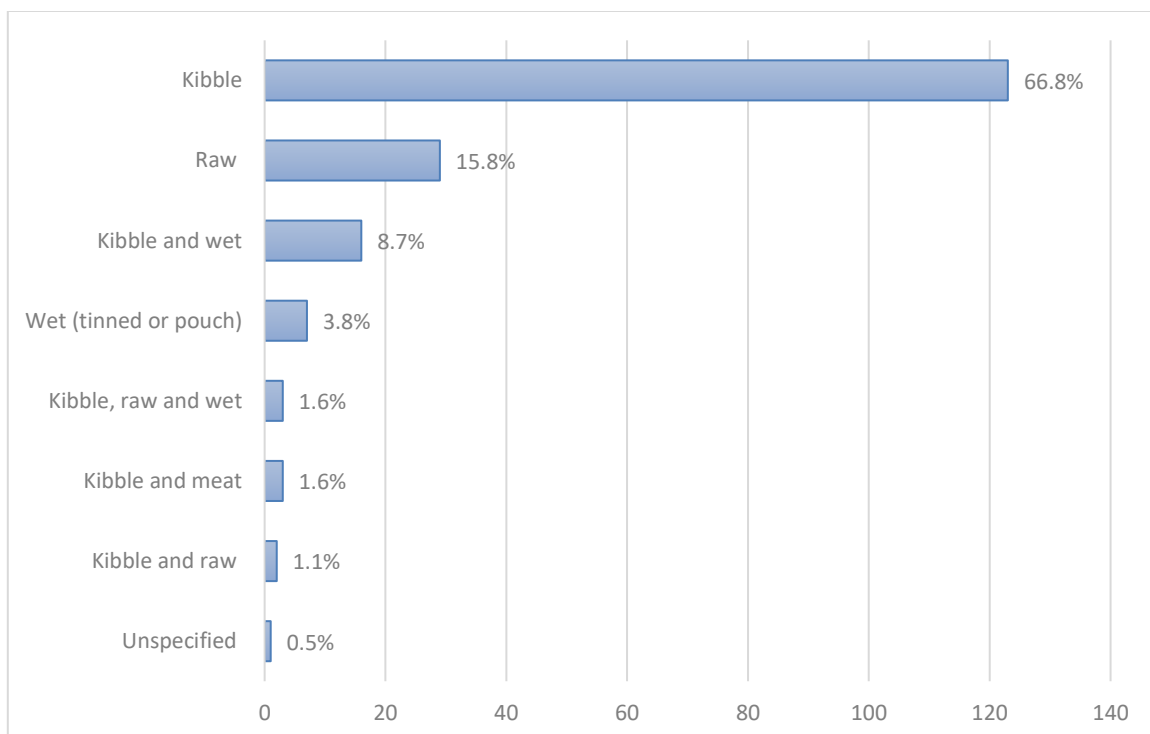


Figure 7: Type of food provided to Field Spaniels reported in the survey.

Health Testing

Owners were then asked to report whether their dog had ever had a hip score, and if possible, to report the score received. In total, 73 (39.9%) of dogs were reported to have been hip scored.

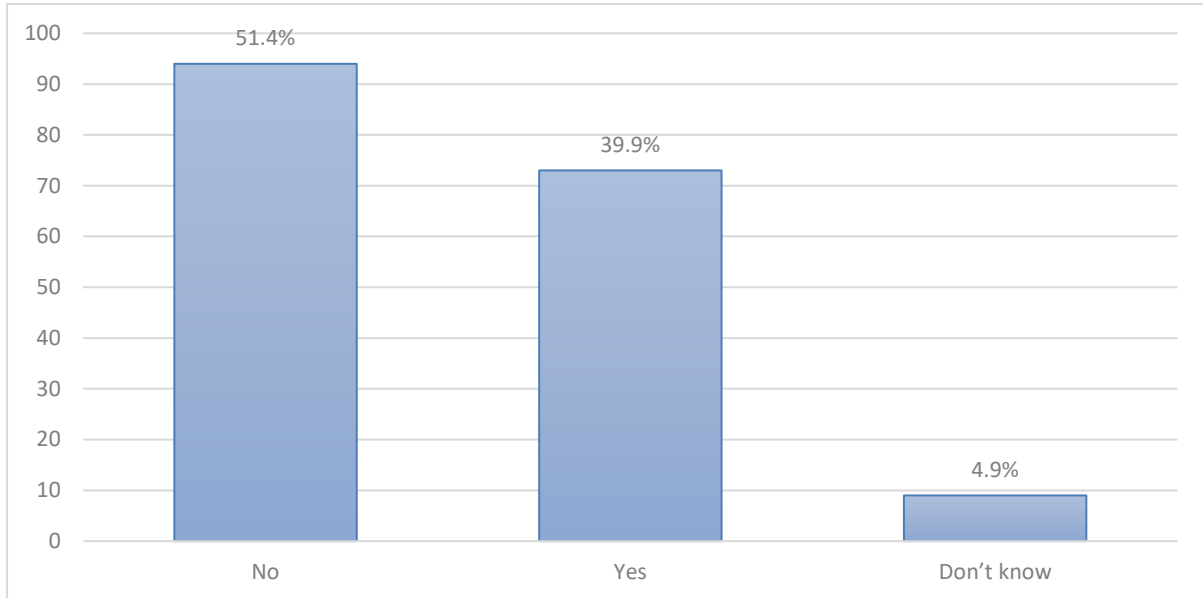


Figure 8: Responses to “Has your dog been hip scored?”.

Fifty-six owners reported their dog’s score, with these shown in Figure 9 below. The median hip score of the 49 numeric scores provided was 9 (range 0 to 28) and mean 9.7.

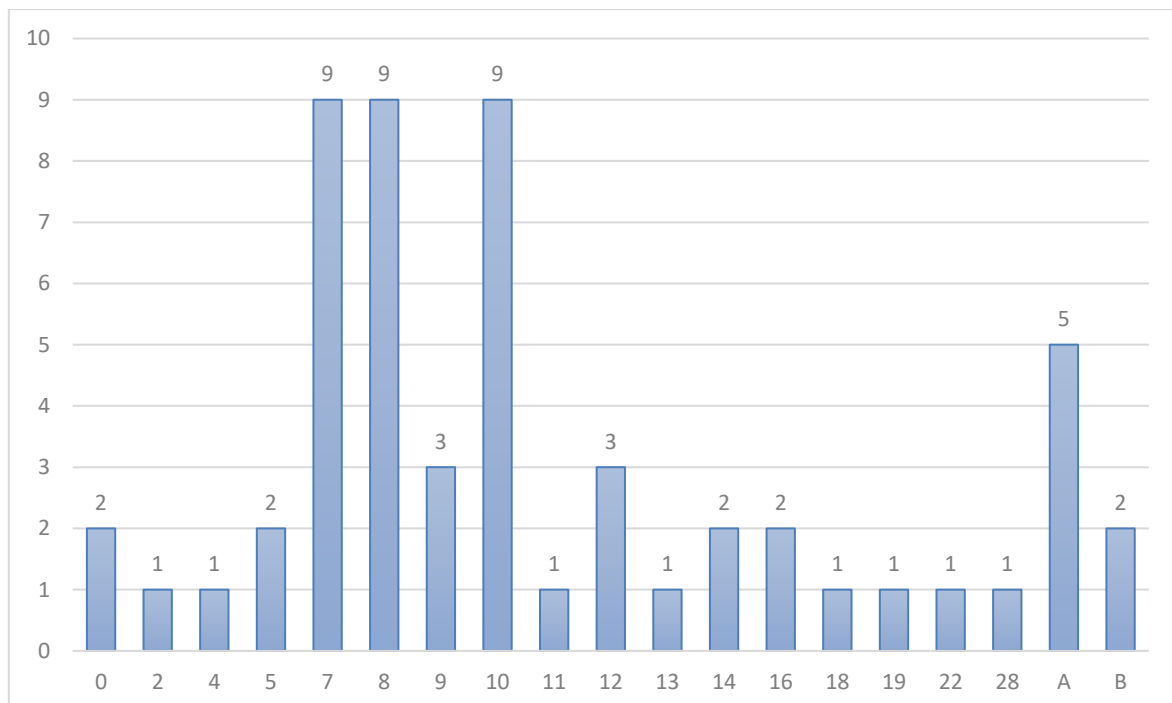


Figure 9: Reported hip scores of tested dogs.

Similarly, owners were asked to report if their dog had been elbow graded. Fewer dogs had been elbow graded compared to hip testing, with 16.0% (29 of 181) of owners replying “yes”. In total, 20 grades were reported, with 19 dogs graded a 0, and one a grade 1.

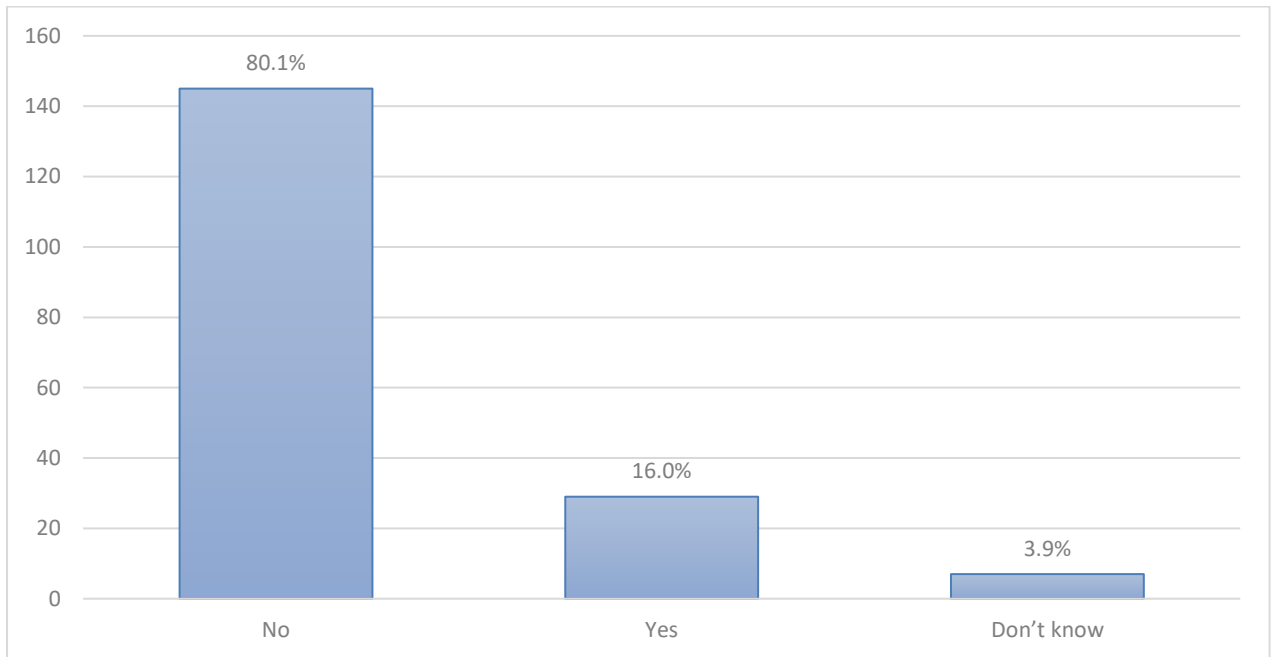


Figure 10: Responses to “Has your dog been elbow graded?”.

Finally, owners reported any other health tests their dog had had. Overall, 66.7% (124 of 185) owners reported that their dog hadn't had additional tests. Of the remaining 61 owners, the reported health tests are shown in Figure 11 below.

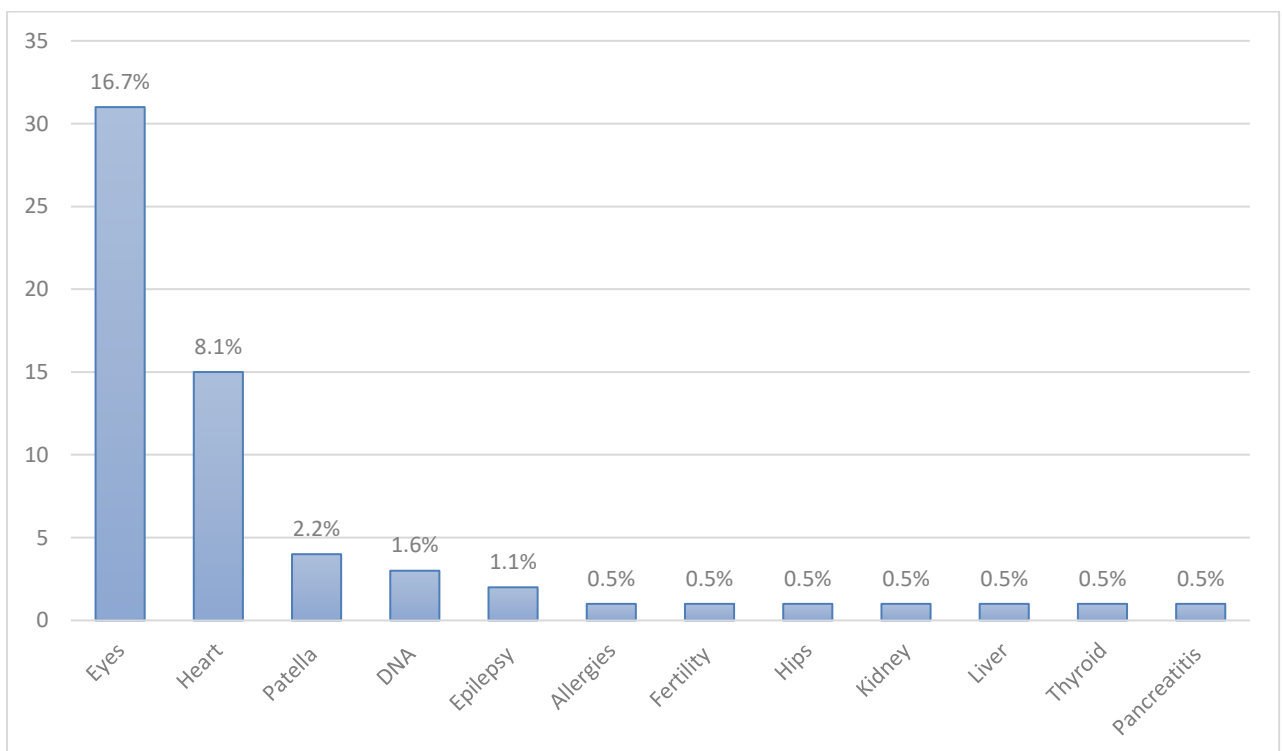


Figure 11: Responses of additional health tests.

Reported Health Conditions

The survey investigated the number of dogs affected by specific conditions within different categories. Within each of these categories, the respondents were given a choice of specific conditions, as well as a “not known” and “other” option.

The data collected for Table 4 represents the total number of conditions selected by respondents about their dog. One dog might be affected by more than one condition (e.g., one dog may be affected by both food and environmental allergies), therefore the data often shows more conditions reported per category than number of affected dogs in that category.

The total number of specific conditions reported in this survey was 138. Out of the 138 specific conditions reported 13.8% were for cancers, 13.0% were for muscle, bones and joint problems, and 11.6% were for digestive. The results for each category are given in Table 4.

Table 4: Overall summary of health conditions by body system/ category, as reported in the survey

Body system	Number of dogs affected/ Total number of dogs	Prevalence	Number of specific conditions reported
Cancerous	48	26.4%	19
Digestive	52	28.7%	16
Ear	62	33.9%	11
Eye	25	13.7%	13
Heart	12	6.7%	4
Hormonal	11	6.0%	2
Immune	14	7.7%	7
Kidney/ bladder	13	7.2%	5
Liver	8	4.4%	3
Muscles, bones and joints	40	22.0%	18
Neurological/ spinal	15	8.2%	12
Reproductive	30	16.6%	10
Respiratory	27	14.9%	5
Skin and/or coat	44	24.3%	13

Cancer conditions

When asked if their dog has ever suffered from cancer, out of 182 responses, 48 (26.4%) answered “Yes” and 134 (73.6%) answered “No”.

The total number of individual cancer conditions reported was 19. Of these, the most commonly reported condition was mammary tumour (n=11). The remaining reports are given in Figure 12 below.

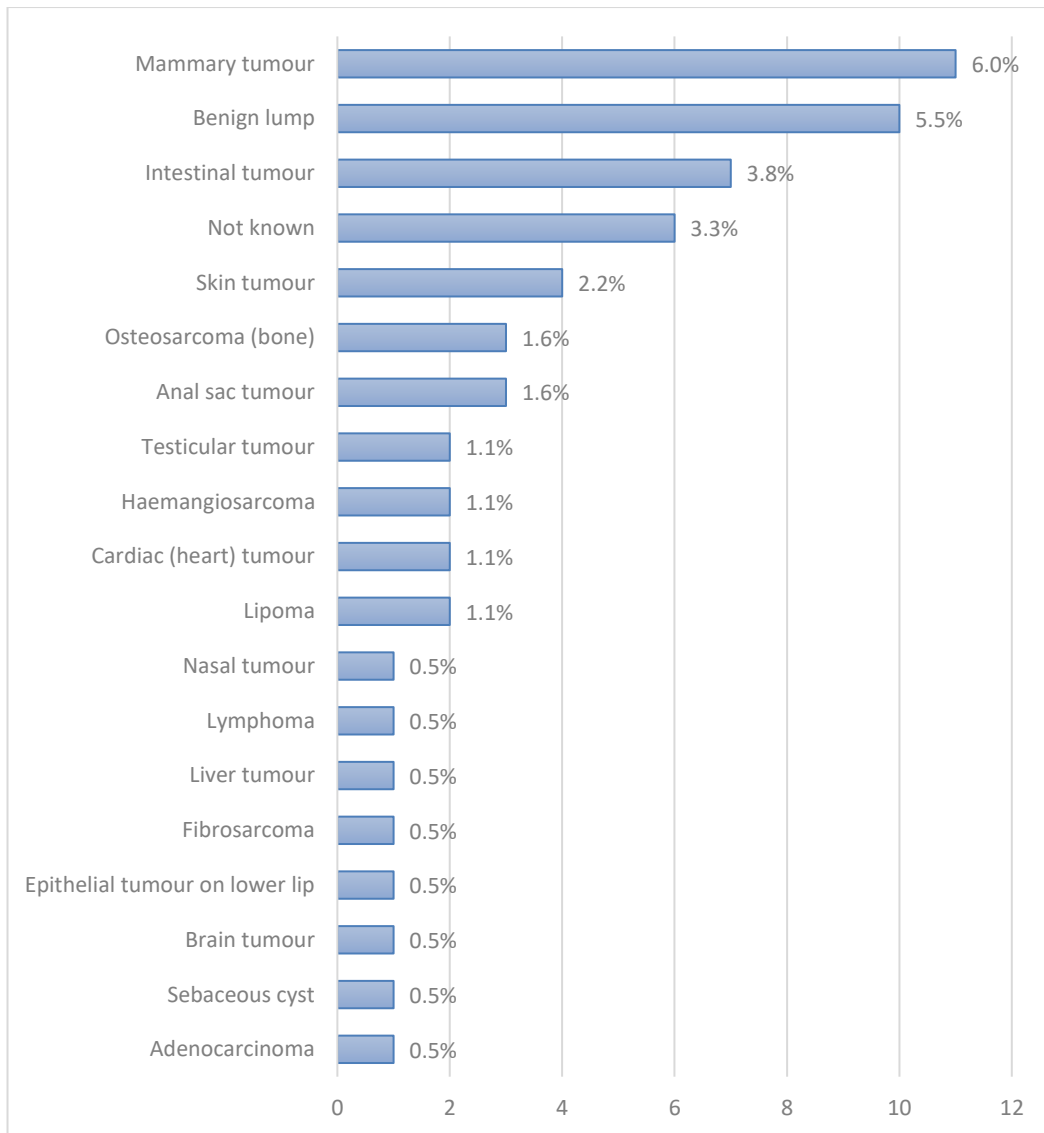


Figure 12: Cancers reported in the Field Spaniel survey.

The median age of dogs affected by a cancer was 8.5 years (range 3 years to 15 years).

Ear conditions

When asked if their dog has ever suffered from an ear condition(s), out of 183 responses, 62 (33.9%) answered “Yes”. A total of 11 conditions were reported, with the most common being recurrent ear infections (15.3%, 28 of 183 dogs). The remaining reported conditions are shown in Figure 13 below.

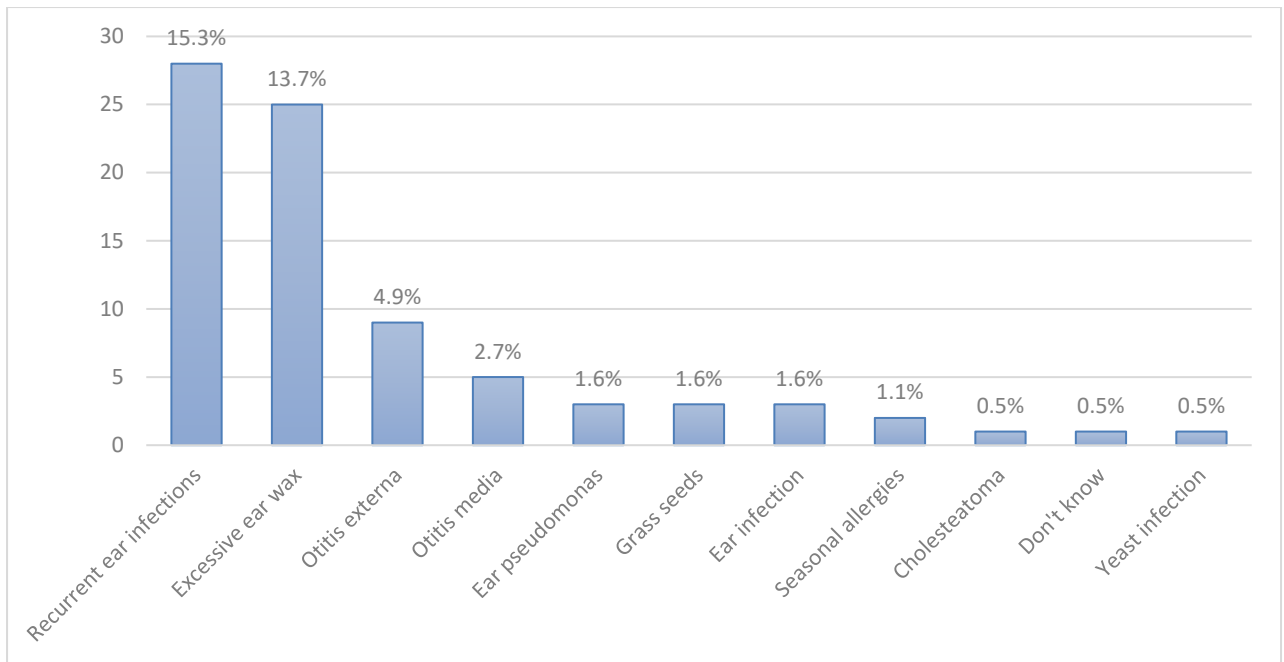


Figure 13: Ear conditions reported in the Field Spaniel survey.

The median age of dogs where reported was 3 years of age (range 1 year to 10 years of age).

Eye conditions

In total, 25 dogs were reported to be affected by an eye condition (13.7% of 182 responses). Thirteen individual conditions were given, with the most common being corneal ulcer (n=4). The remaining conditions are given in Figure 14 below. The range in age at affected was 1.1 years to 11 years.

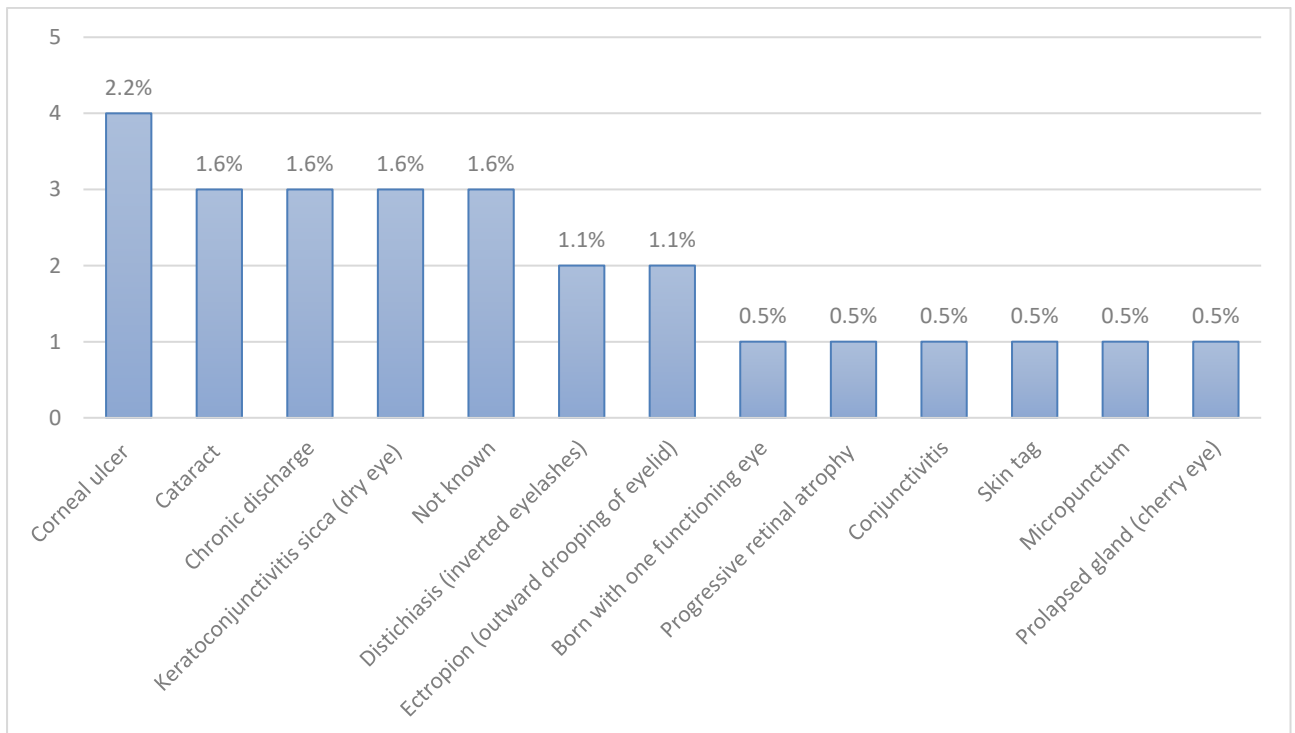


Figure 14: Eye conditions reported in the Field Spaniel survey.

Digestive conditions

Overall, 52 dogs were reported to be affected by a digestive condition (28.7% of 181 responses). Sixteen conditions were given, with the most common being food allergies/intolerance (n=21). The remaining conditions are given in Figure 15 below. The median age affected was 2 years of age (range 2 months to 11 years).

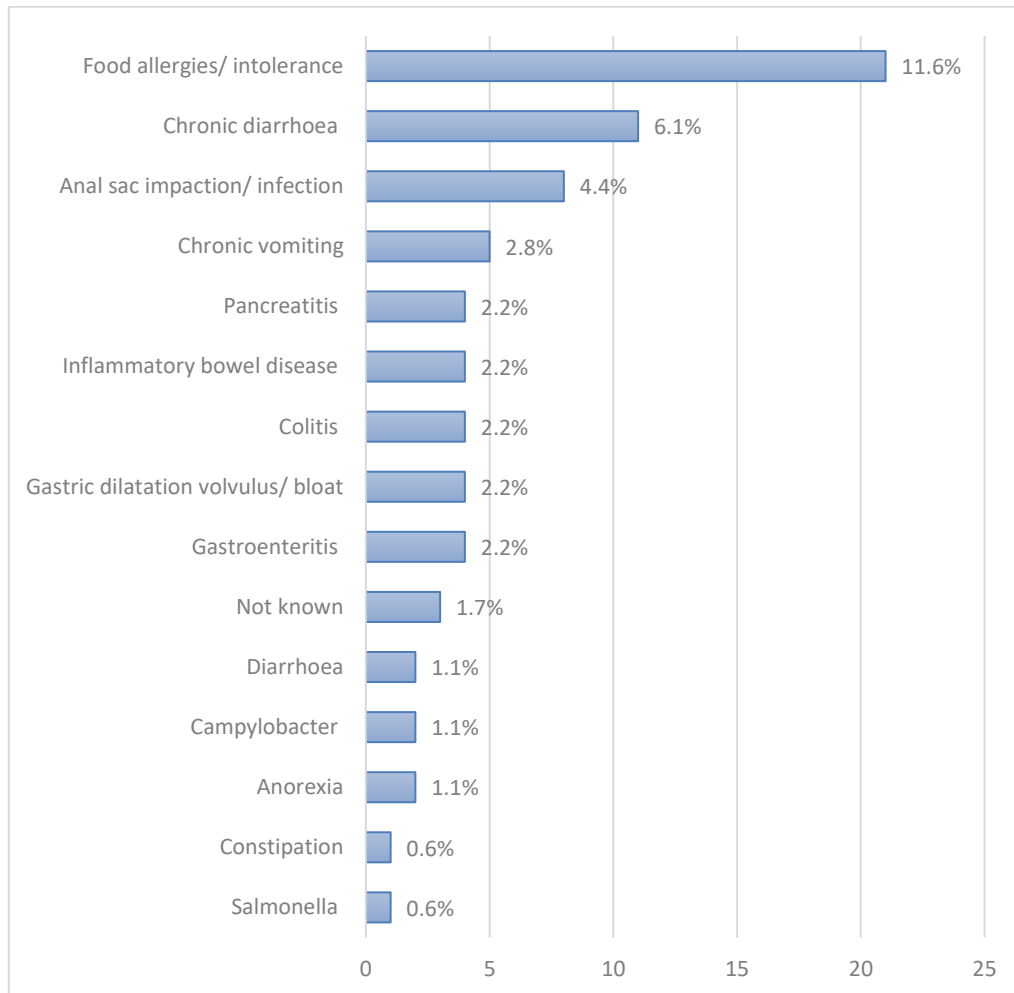


Figure 15: Digestive conditions reported in the Field Spaniel survey.

Heart conditions

When asked if their dog has ever suffered from a heart condition, out of 178 responses, 12 responded “Yes” (6.7%). The most commonly reported known problem was heart murmur, which affected four dogs (2.2%). Three ages were reported, with one dog being affected from birth (i.e. congenital defect), one aged seven years, and the other aged 10.

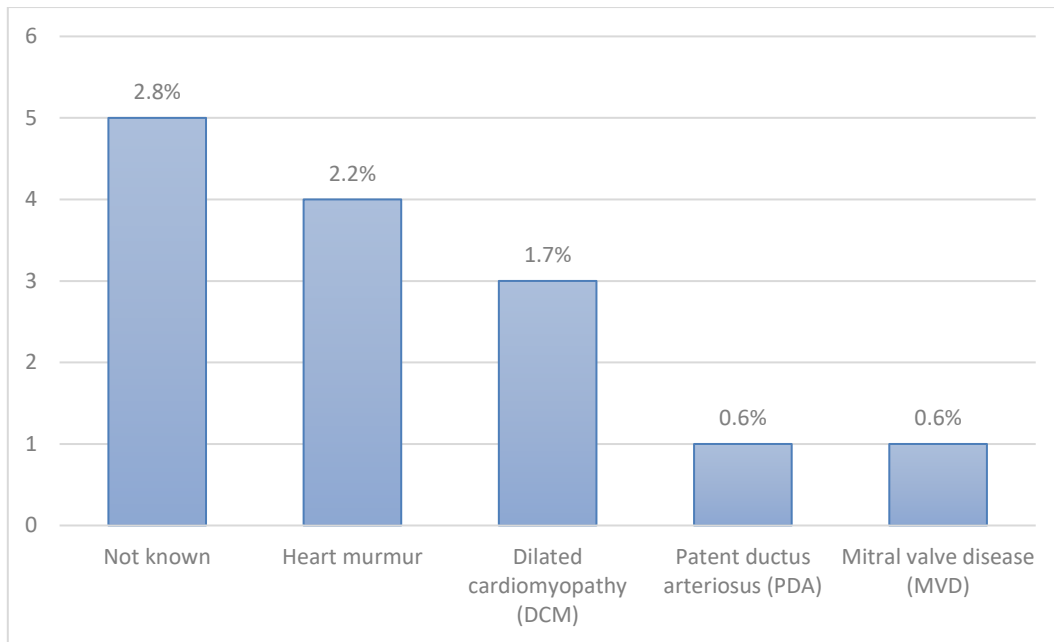


Figure 16: Heart conditions reported in the Field Spaniel survey.

Hormonal conditions

In total just 11 dogs were reported to be affected by a hormonal problem (6.0%, out of 182 responses). The reported conditions in these dogs were not known (n=6), hypothyroidism (n=3), and hyperthyroidism (n=2). Three ages at diagnosis were reported, two aged six years, and the other aged seven.

Immune conditions

When asked if their dog has ever suffered from an immune condition(s), out of 183 responses, 14 (7.7%) answered “Yes”. The given conditions are shown in Figure 17 below.

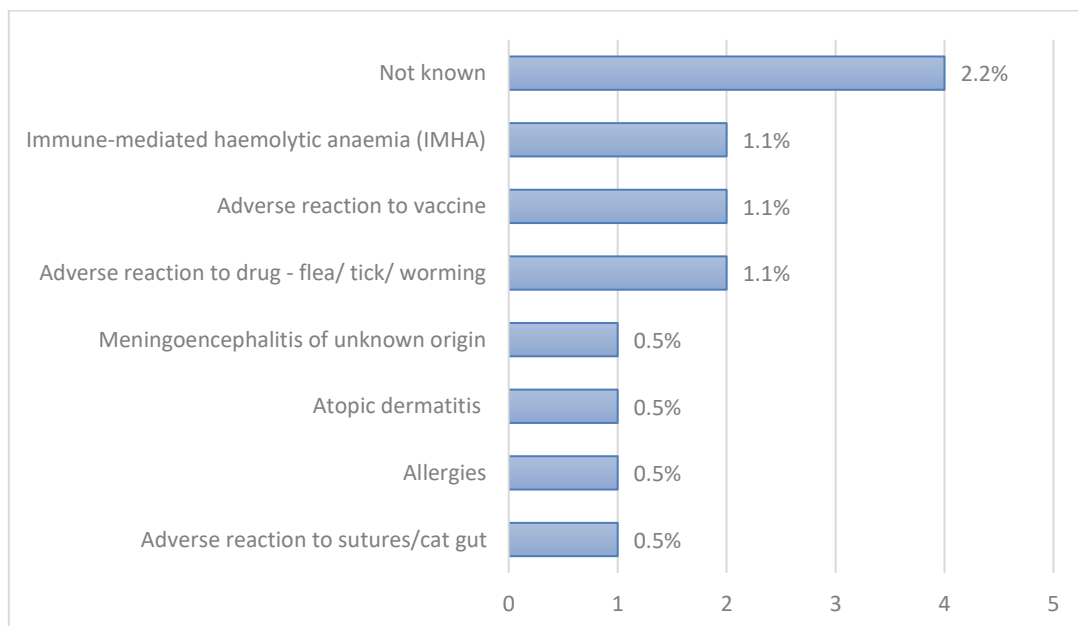


Figure 17: Immune conditions reported in the Field Spaniel survey.

Four ages were provided for onset of their dog’s immune problem, with these being three months old, five months old, six years, and eight years.

Kidney and bladder conditions

In total, 13 dogs were reported to have been affected by a kidney and/or bladder problem (7.2% of 182 responses), with five specific conditions given. The most commonly reported condition was bladder infection (2.7%), with the remaining conditions shown in Figure 18 below. The four ages at onset were 1 years old, three years, eight years, and 12 years.

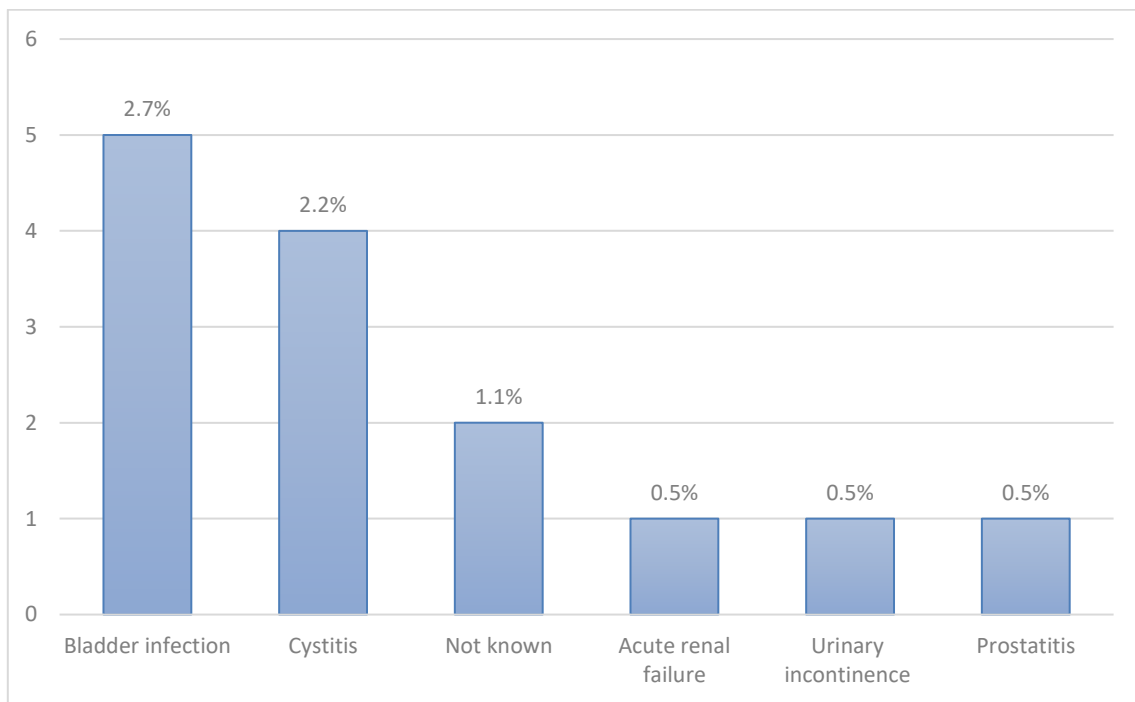


Figure 18: Bladder and/or kidney conditions reported in the Field Spaniel survey.

Liver conditions

When asked if their dog has ever suffered from a liver condition(s), out of 181 responses, eight (4.4%) answered “Yes”. Three specific conditions were reported, liver cancer, acute liver failure, and liver damage, with the number of dogs affected shown in Figure 19 below. Two ages were provided, eight and a half years of age, and 12 years.

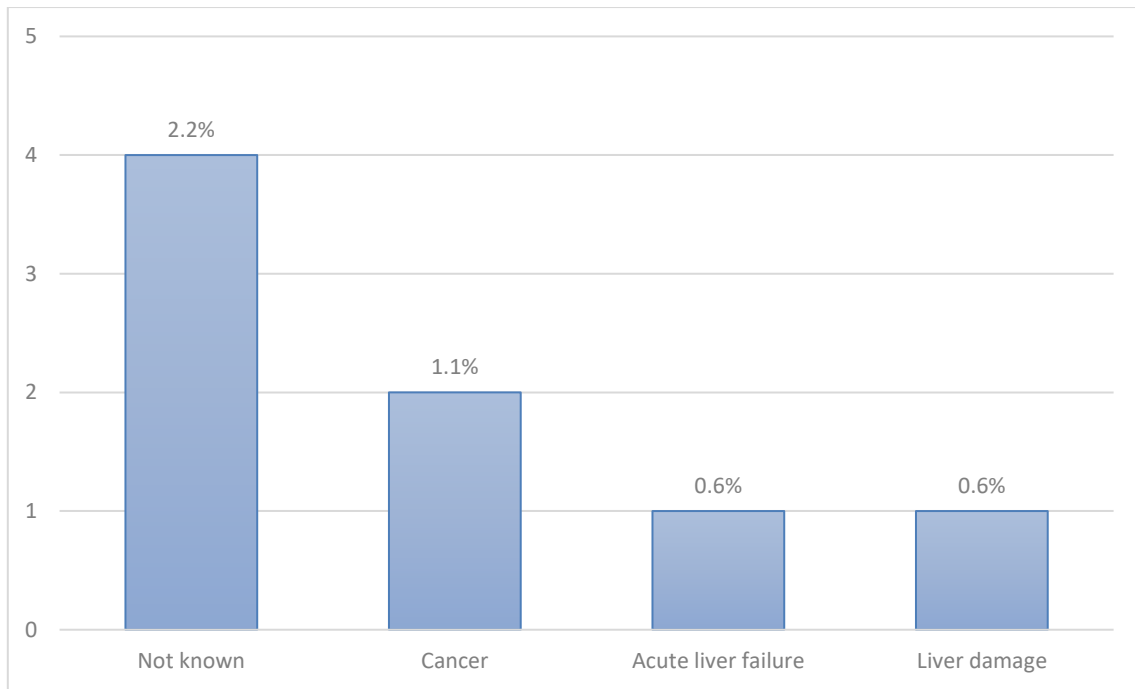


Figure 19: Liver conditions reported in the Field Spaniel survey.

Musculoskeletal conditions

In total, some 40 dogs were reported to be affected by a muscle, bone or joint condition (22.0%, of 182 responses). The most commonly reported condition was tail injury, affecting 20 dogs (11.0%). The remaining conditions are shown in Figure 20 below.

The median age that dogs were reported to be affected was 4 years 6 months (range 0 months to 16 years).

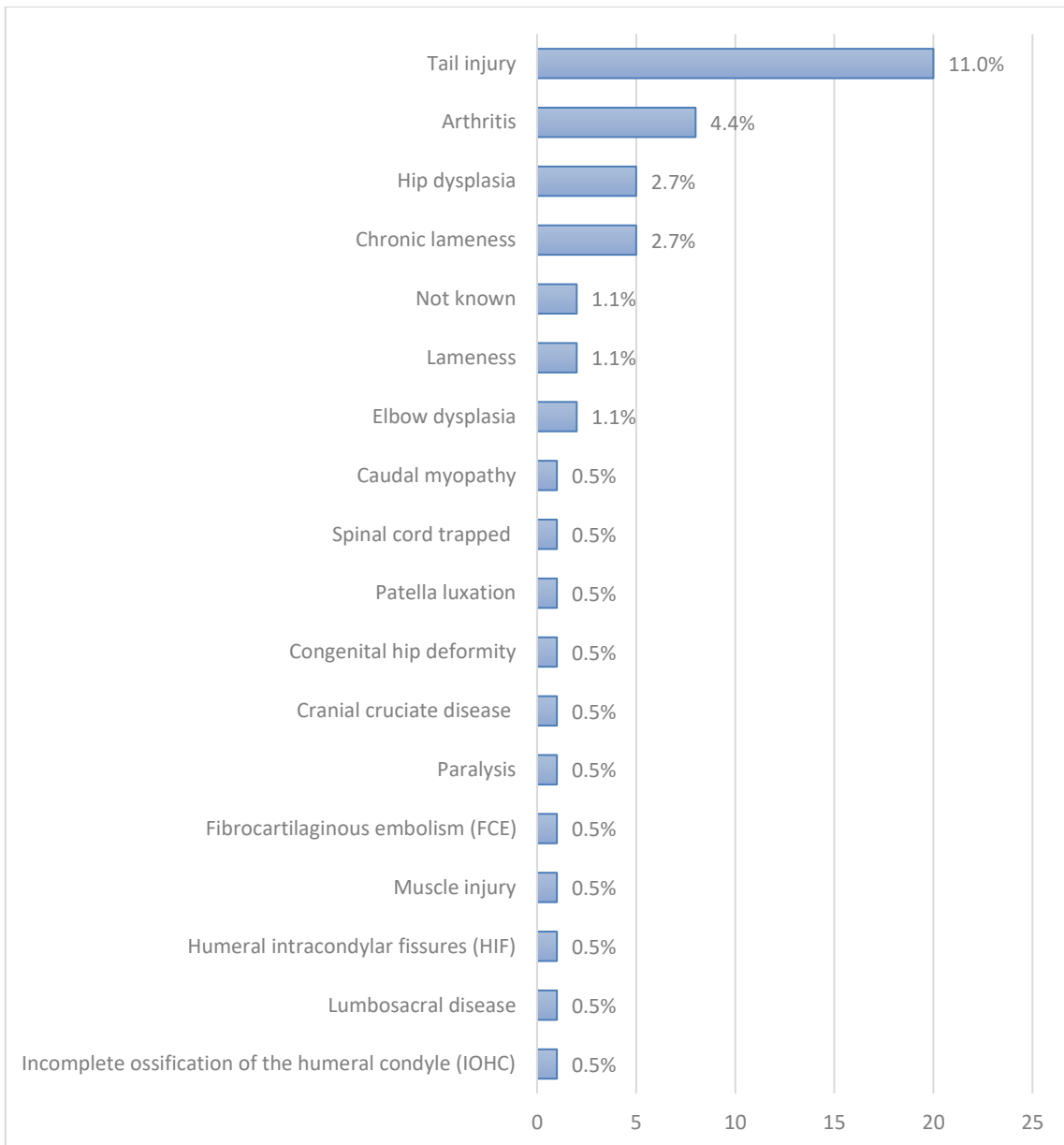


Figure 20: Musculoskeletal conditions reported in the Field Spaniel survey.

Neurological conditions

When asked if their dog has ever suffered from a neurological condition(s), out of the 182 responses, 15 (8.2%) answered “Yes”. Twelve conditions were reported, with the most common condition being deafness (n=6, 3.3%). The other reported conditions are shown in Figure 21 below.

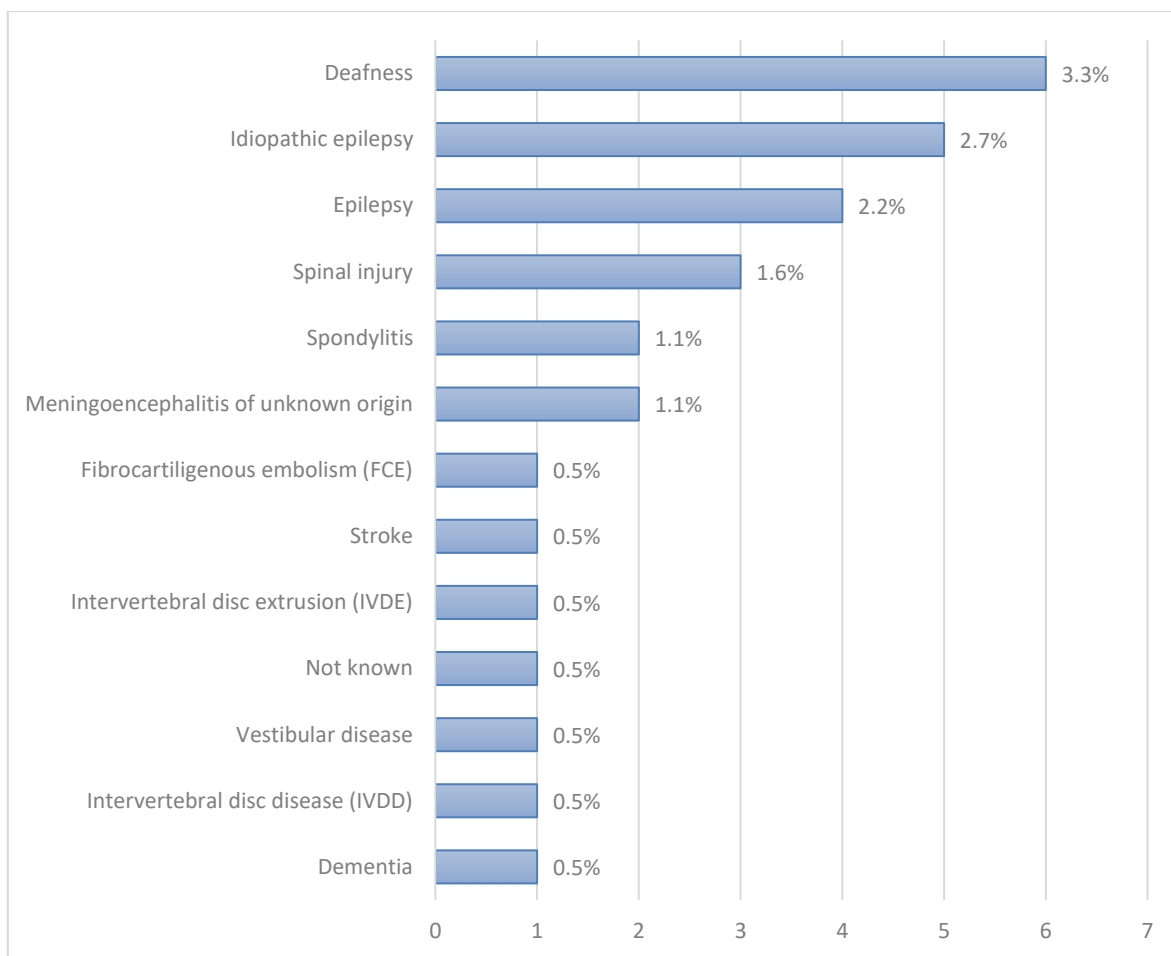


Figure 21: Neurological conditions reported in the Field Spaniel survey.

The median age of affected dogs was 9 years 4 months (range 6 months to 15 years).

Reproductive conditions

Overall, 30 (16.6%) of owners reported that their dog had had a reproductive condition, out of a total of 181 responses. The most commonly known condition was pseudopregnancy (phantom pregnancy), affecting six dogs (3.3%). A further nine conditions were reported, with these shown in Figure 22 below. The median age of onset was 3 years of age (range 0 months to 6 years).

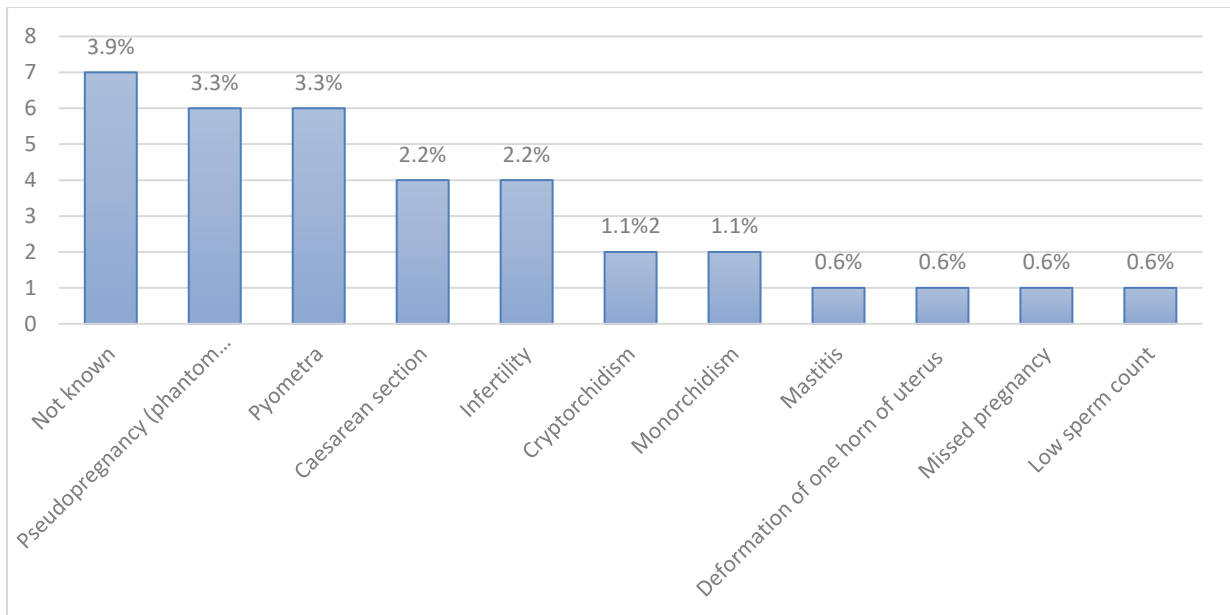


Figure 22: Reproductive conditions reported in the Field Spaniel survey.

Next, owners were asked to report whether their females had missed during mating, the number of times and any veterinary diagnoses given. In total, nine bitches were reported to have missed, two once, five twice, and two unknown/ unreported. One veterinary diagnosis was given for one dog, vaginal stenosis.

With respect to males, five dogs were reported to have failed to produce. The number of times was not provided by any owner, but the reasons given were low sperm count for two dogs, and being unilateral cryptorchid for another.

Respiratory conditions

When asked if their dog has ever suffered from a respiratory condition(s), out of 181 responses, 27 (14.9%) answered "Yes". The most commonly reported condition was Kennel Cough, affecting 21 dogs (11.6%). The other four reported conditions are shown in Figure23 below.

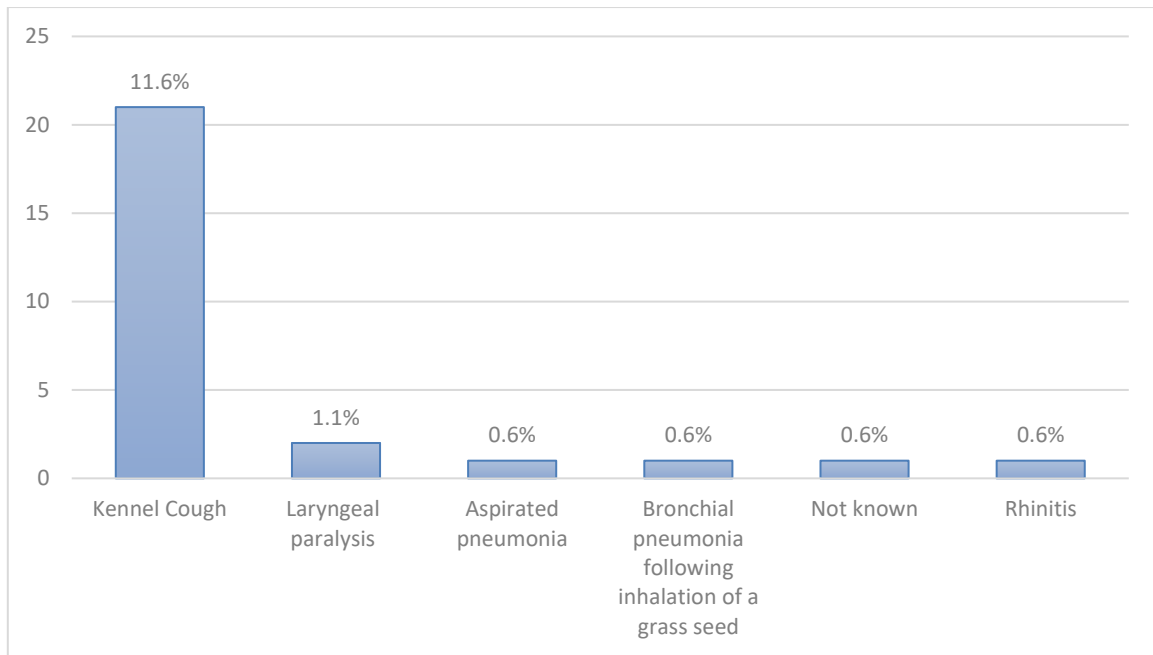


Figure 23: Respiratory conditions reported in the Field Spaniel survey.

The median age reported in those affected dogs was 2 years of age (range 6 months to 11 years).

Skin and/or coat conditions

When asked if their dog has ever suffered from a skin and/or coat condition, a total of 44 dogs (24.3%) were reported to be affected, out of 181 responses. Thirteen conditions were reported, with the most common being itchiness/ skin irritation (n=16, 8.8%). The 12 other reported conditions are shown in Figure 24 below. The median age for onset was 3 years (range four months to 13 years).

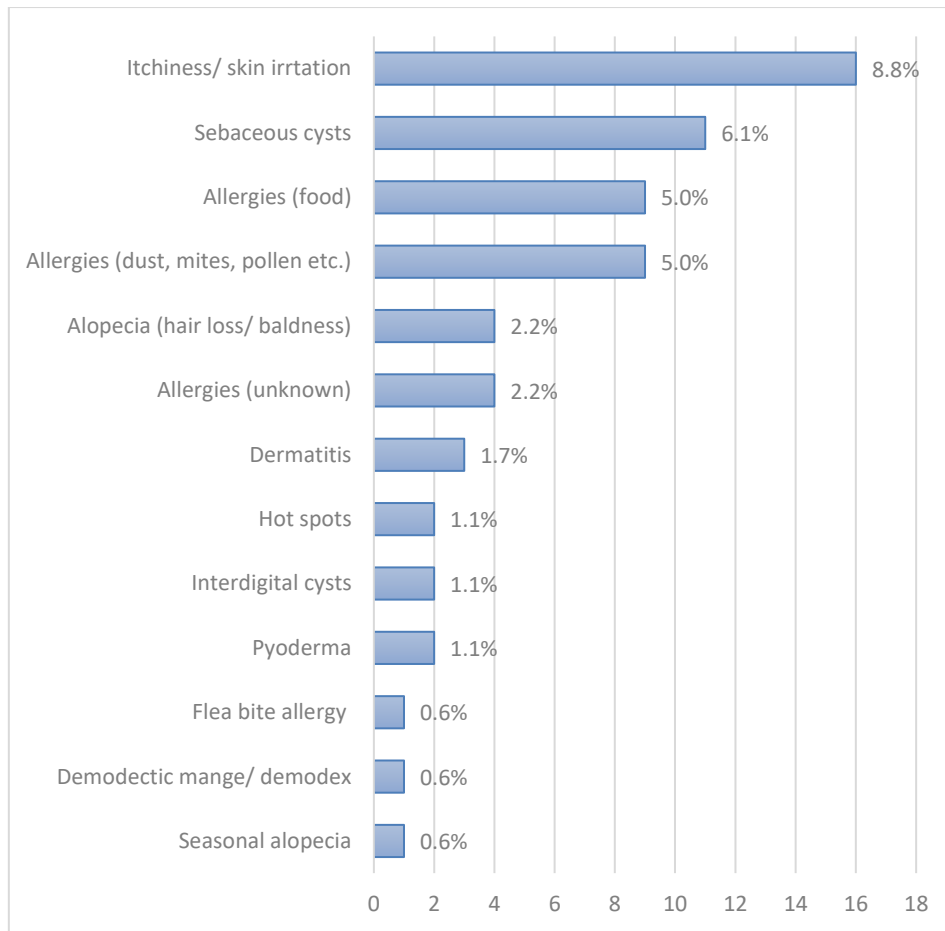


Figure 24: Skin conditions reported in the Field Spaniel survey.

Additional conditions not listed in survey

Finally, the respondents were provided with the opportunity to note any conditions not already covered by the previous questions. An additional 21 conditions were reported, with these shown in Table 5 below.

Table 5: Additional conditions reported in the survey.

Condition	Count	Condition	Count
Anal gland impaction/ infection	2	Interdigital cysts	1
Prostatitis	1	Anxiety	1
Tracheitis	1	Immune mediated thrombocytopaenia	1
Aspergillosis	1	Nasal discharge	1
Benign prostrate hyperplasia	1	Heart murmur	1
Enlarged prostate	1	Pyelonephritis	1
Incomplete ossification of the humeral condyle (IOHC)	1	Skewed adult teeth	1
Gland issues - unspecified	1	Spinal trauma	1
Tail injury	1	Lower canine impaction	1
Ingrown hair	1	Exercise intolerance	1
Grass seed in stomach	1		

Deaths

In total 47 deaths were reported, with these covered in the table below. The three most common causes of death were cancer, seizures/ epilepsy, and age-related.

Table 6: Causes of death reported in the survey.

Cause	Count	Cause	Count
Cancer	4	Bowel/ lymph node cancer	1
Seizures/ epilepsy	4	Paralysis	1
Age related	4	Fibrosarcoma	1
Pancreatitis	3	Gastric dilatation volvulus/ bloat	1
Not specified	3	Stroke related to injury	1
Liver cancer	2	Heart failure	1
Haemangiosarcoma	2	Familial dilated cardiomyopathy (DCM)	1
Seizures due to cholesteatoma	1	Immune mediated haemolytic anaemia	1
Combination	1	Inhalation of foreign body	1
Lung failure	1	Nasal tumour	1
Organ failure	1	Congenital heart defect	1
Rectal tumour	1	Respiratory failure	1
Failing to absorb food	1	Sepsis	1
Heart defect	1	Spondylitis	1
Possible meningitis	1	Spinal injury	1
Mammary tumour	1	Sudden death	1

The spread of age at death is shown in Figure 25 below, with the median age being 10 years 3 months (range 4 months to 17 years 2 months).

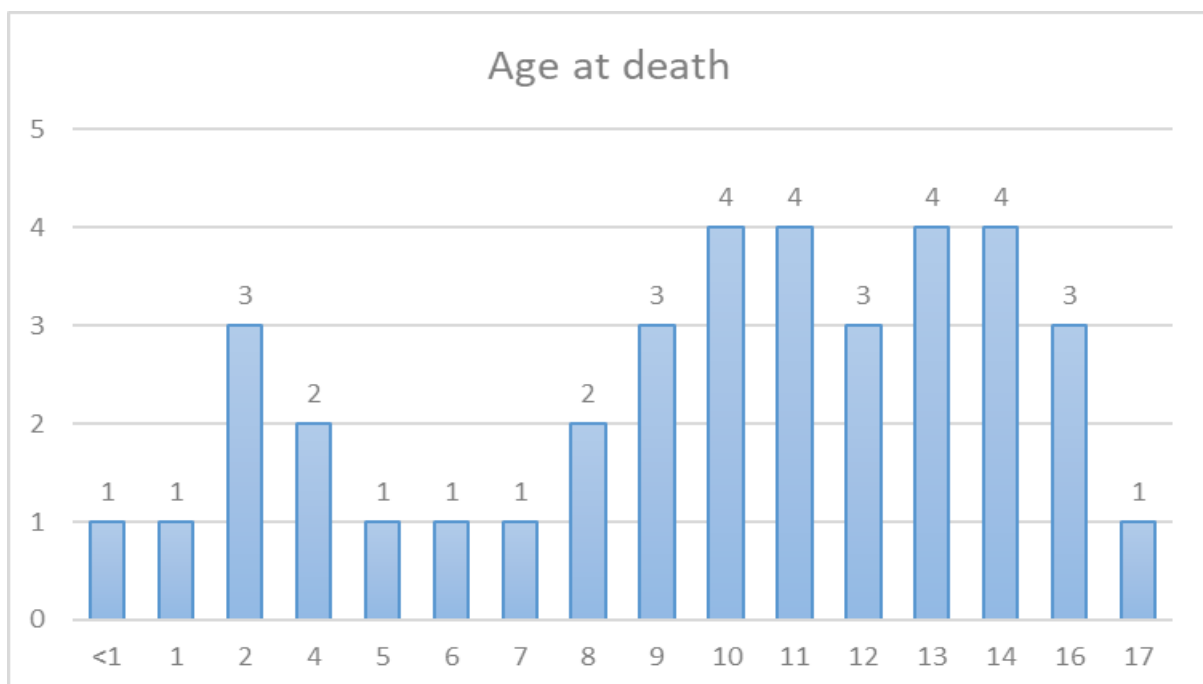


Figure 25: Age at death reported in the Field Spaniel survey.