

Confidential health survey of Hungarian Wirehaired Vizsla: Mortality and life span summary of findings

In total **30 deaths were reported between 1993 and 2009**, but only **29 were included in the analysis** – the dog for which neither age at death nor dates of birth and death had not been provided could not be used.

Of these 29 dogs:

- **20 were euthanized** at a median age of **9 years and 10 months** (2 years – 15 years)
- **9 died** at a median age of **8 years and 5 months** (2 years and 6 months – 12 years and 8 months)
- **Median age at death overall was 9 years and 5 months** (1 year and 2 months - 15 years)

50% of the Hungarian Wirehaired Vizslas in this survey were still alive at 9 years of age, and 20% were still alive at 11 years of age (Figure 1).

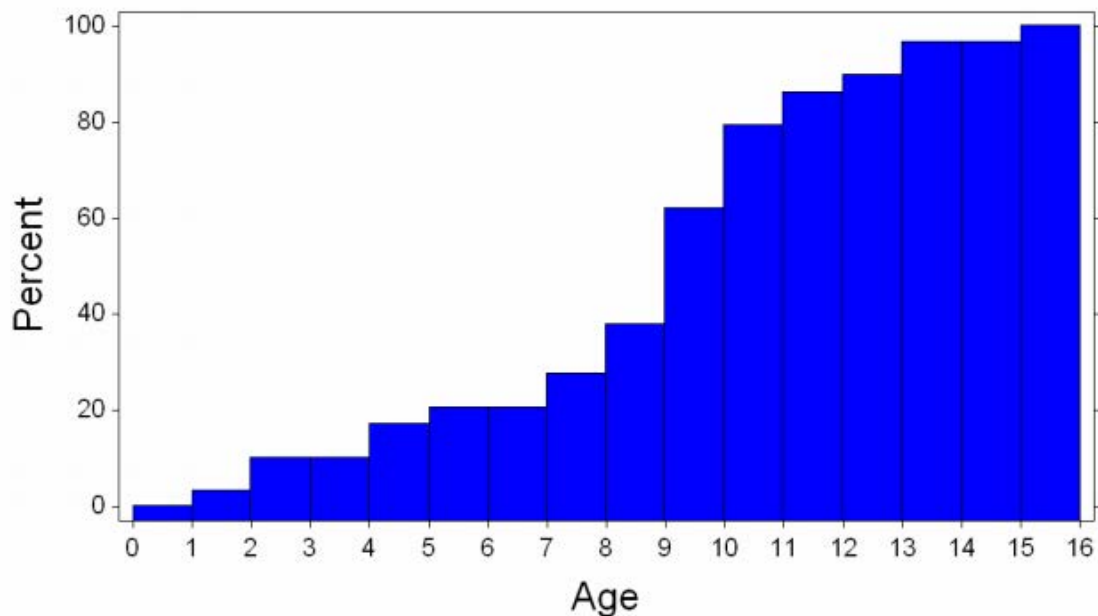


Figure 1: Cumulative distribution of deaths by age.

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The three most frequently reported causes of death were cancer (55%), “old age” (10%) and GDV (10%) (Table 1). Note from editor: type of cancer seems varied.

Table 1. Cause of death/reason for euthanasia and age at death in descending order of total number of deaths.

Cause of death	Number of HWVs		Total number of deaths	Age at death		
	Died	Euthanised		Median	Minimum	Maximum
Cancer ¹	1	15	16	9.83	2.0	13.83
“Old age”	1	2	3	13.92	12.67	15.0
GDV	2	1	3	8.0	7.75	9.0
Cardiac ²	0	2	2	7.33	5.17	9.42
Hepatic (liver disease)	1	0	1	8.42		
Respiratory (pneumonia)	1	0	1	2.5		
Aneurysm	1	0	1	9.92		
Addison’s disease	1	0	1	4.58		
“Heartbreak”	1	0	1	9.0		
TOTAL	9	20	29	9.42	2.0	15.0

¹ 2 haemangiosarcoma, 2 lung cancer, 1 lymphoma, 1 lymphoma & skin cancer, 1 osteosarcoma, 1 cerebellar tumour, 1 brain tumour, 1 adrenal gland tumour, 1 cardiac tumour, 1 tumour on spleen or liver, 1 cancer of spleen & stomach, 1 liver cancer, 1 type & location unspecified.

² 1 cardiac valvular disease, 1 dilated cardiomyopathy.

These results are similar to those of the 2004 KC Purebred survey of mortality in the Hungarian Wirehaired Vizsla .

	2004 KC Purebred Health Survey	2009 Confidential Health Survey
Median age at death (years)	9.83	9.42
Maximum age at death (years)	15.0	15.0
Minimum age at death (years)	2.0	1.17
Cause of Death - Cancer	47%	55%
Cause of Death – Old Age	13%	10%

Cancer is often considered to be a condition associated with aging; however the median age at death due to cancer (9 years and 10 months) was significantly lower than that for “old age” (13 years and 11 months). It is difficult to comment on the other causes of death due to the low reported frequencies of occurrence. **There would be value in monitoring causes of death within the breed to establish trends.**

While there are many understandable reasons why owners may choose not to have a post mortem examination performed on their pet when it has died, **the more accurate information about cause of death that the results of such examinations can provide would be invaluable for future studies of Hungarian Wirehaired Vizsla health.**