

Spanish Water Dog Club

2017 Breed Health Survey Report

A massive thank you to everyone who took part in the 2017 health survey it is lovely to see so many people get involved and help with the health of our beloved breed.

This time the survey had a wonderful entry of 511 entries complete. The large increase following the 2014 report is due to opening the survey up and accepting entries for SWD in every country. More owners/breeders are able to export and import their dogs far easier it would give us information on the breed world wide.

This time we opened the survey up for everyone who had a Spanish Water Dog to get involved. With regulations on import and exporting of dogs being far easier then it has ever been, we decided to include all counties in this years survey. This would give us an interesting view on the breed world wide, as well as within the UK.

The feedback from the 2014 survey was that owners felt not all the conditions/interests and developments were taking into consideration. Although we have left some health area's broad, there was always areas where participants could comment further. This did lead to the survey being longer then previous ones. However, this has given us far more data to work with and given the Health Team areas to look into further.

An interesting piece of data from the survey:
The most common pet name listed was - **Lola**.

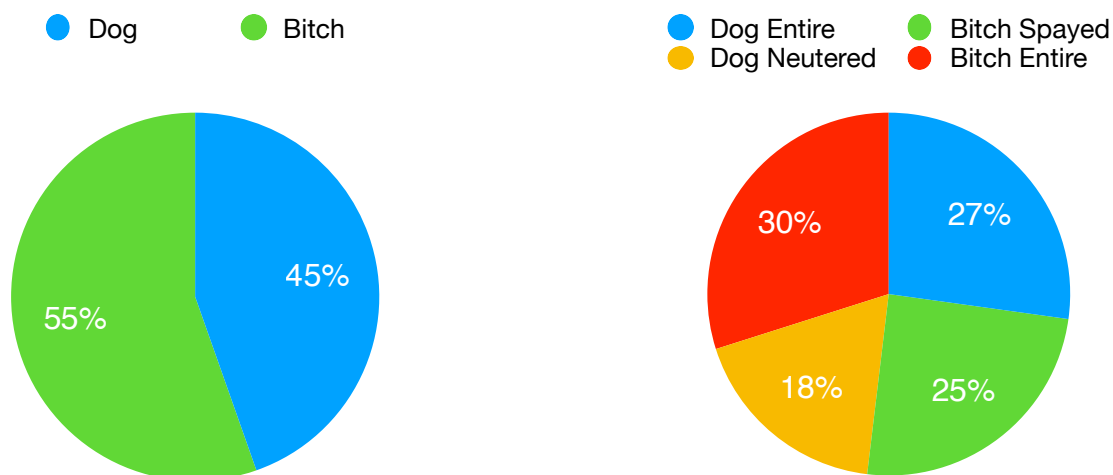
Locations:

Of the 511 entires (human location), came from 17 different countries, top 5 are: 57.1% UK, 9.6% USA, 9.4% Sweden, 7.8% Finland, 6.5% Belgium.

The dog's were from 17 different countries, top 5 are: 53.2% UK, 11.5% Spain, 8.6% USA, 8.2% Sweden, 6.7% Finland.

Gender:

283 Bitches (55.4%) / 228 Dogs (44.6%)
Bitches entire 29.9% / Bitches Spayed 24.7%
Dogs entire 27.2% / Dogs Neutered 18.2%



Participation:

A wide range of activities were offered for owners to select from and owners were also able to select multiple activities. SWD are listed as taking part in a wide range of activities and often (72.3%) take part in more then one area.

Table 1: SWD's Activities

Activities	Number of dogs	Activities	Number of dogs
Obedience	133	Fun/Companion Show	61
Showing	122	Water Trials	47
Agility	113	Flayball	33
Good Citizen (or similar)	104	Cani-X	16
Gundog Work	65	Therapy	15

Other areas not listed - Herding, Nose Work, Companion, Rally, Heelwork to Music, Search and Rescue, Dock Diving, Blood Tracking to name a few.

Almost every survey had the number one listed activity for their SWD was as a pet/companion.

Body Condition:

Over all an over whelming 459 SWD were listed as in ideal condition (89.9%), Overweight 35 (6.8%, Underweight 13 (2.9%), Too Thin 4 (0.8%) and none listed as Obese.

Coat:

It was noted on the survey that 49% of SWD had a natural coat that cord.

Following this, owners reported that some coats could be woolly and thicker in texture. Most importantly noticed after the dog is spayed and neutered. Therefore resulting in owners keeping the coat shorter and requiring more grooming.

Coat colour had similar results to the 2014 survey, showing that the most popular colour taking part in the survey was brown and white - 149 (29.2%)

Tail:

Around 271 (53%) SWD's were listed as having a tail. 115 (22.5%) were listed as natural bobtail and 73 (14.3%) were listed as being docked.

Some entries were unsure if their SWD was naturally bobtailed or docked having come from rescues, or simply not sure.

Natural bobtail can be selected by breeders when registering litters and we would encourage everyone to use this reporting tool so we are able to review pedigree's with all the information and data.

Vaccination:

As with the 2014 survey the replies for vaccinations were varied. Around 42.5% of SWD were reported as having their full vaccination records. 10% of SWD having their puppy vaccinations and nothing further and mixture of replies for - rabies, 2 or 3 yearly vaccinations, after titer testing, stopped at an older age, only certain injections done etc.

From the dogs having regularly vaccinations 96.1% (491) reported no reaction or problem following the annual vaccination, 3.9% (19) had a reaction following one or more injections.

The reports that followed from the reactions where:

- Digestive upset
- Shivering
- Vomiting
- Paralysis
- Sedation
- Blood in Urine

Similar reactions were also reported by owners when their SWD was given worming or/and flea/tick tablets/treatment. Either from one brand or another (details of brands were not asked at this time).

Health:

Prcd-PRA (Progressive rod-cone degeneration – Progressive Retinal Atrophy)

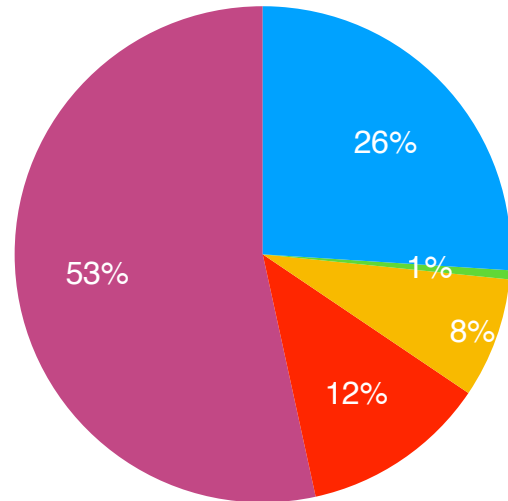
The number of SWD not tested for prcd-PRA has gone down on this survey:

From around 74% in 2014 not being tested, this number was reduced to 53%*.



**Where registered names were provided, some results could be changed to heredity clear/carrier, therefore reducing this number further.*

One of the ideals of gather these details is also to understand participants understand of the health testing and the results of their SWDs.



There were three, (1%) reports of SWD who had been tested affected for prcd-PRA.

Overall, it is nice to see a shift in the right direction with the results showing a general increase in clears and decrease in carriers/affected.

Neuroaxonal Dystrophy (NAD)

Around 84% of SWD participants were unaware of NAD and had not tested for this.

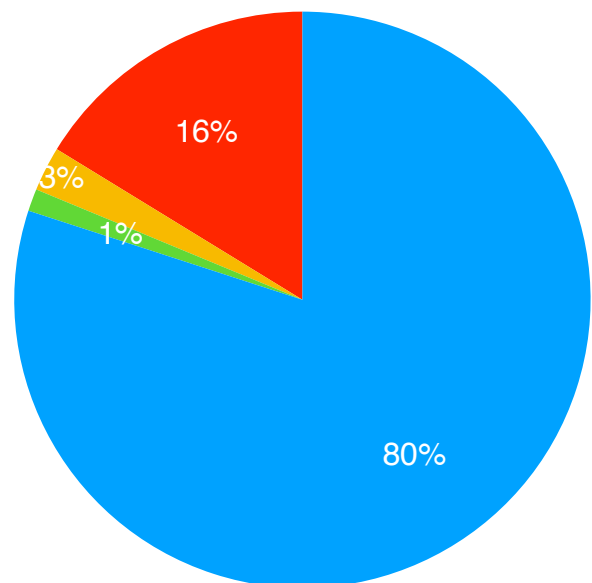
Removing the SWD's not tested, the results show - 80% clear, 16% Heredity Clear, 3% Carrier, 1% Affected*.



**Working with the KC and previous results sent in direction. It is predicted the impact of these results in the UK show a population result estimated to be:*

Clear 80%, Carrier 15% Affected 5%

This is an estimation and as more SWD are tested, the more accurate this figure will become.



Congenital Hypothyroidism with Goiter (CHG)

Around 84% of SWD participants were unaware of CHG and had not tested for this.

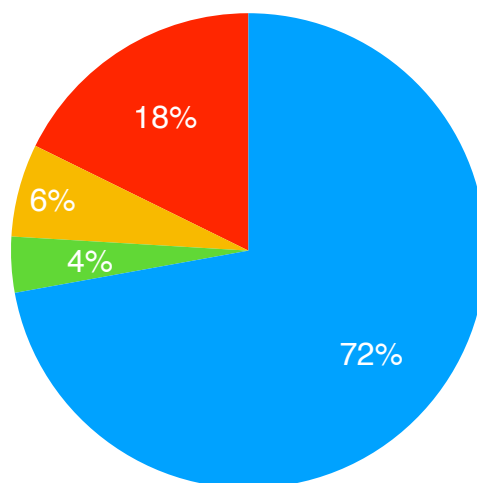
Removing the SWD's not tested the results show - 72% Clear, 18% Heredity Clear, 6% Carrier and 4% Affected.

● Clear ● Affected ● Carrier
● Heredity Clear

*Working with the KC and previous results sent in directly. It is predicted the impact of these results in the UK show a population result estimated to be:

Clear 50%, Carrier 30%, Affected 20%

This is an estimation and as more SWD are tested, the more accurate this figure will become.



Hip Dysplasia:

According to the British Veterinary Association (BVA) 1st January 2001 - 31st December 2016. The 15 year median score is 12 and the 5 year median score is 11.

From the results of the Health Survey 290 (56%) had not been tested, 209 (40%) had been scored. Although an increase in unsecured SWD's following the survey in 2014, a number of details show that SWD's were likely to have been too young, or in a companion home and therefore unlikely to be scored.

Elbow Dysplasia:

86% of participants had not Elbow scored there SWD's, however turns out around 12% (61) had scored. Majority of the report results were 0/0 with one result 1/1.

Primary Glaucoma / Goniodysgenesis

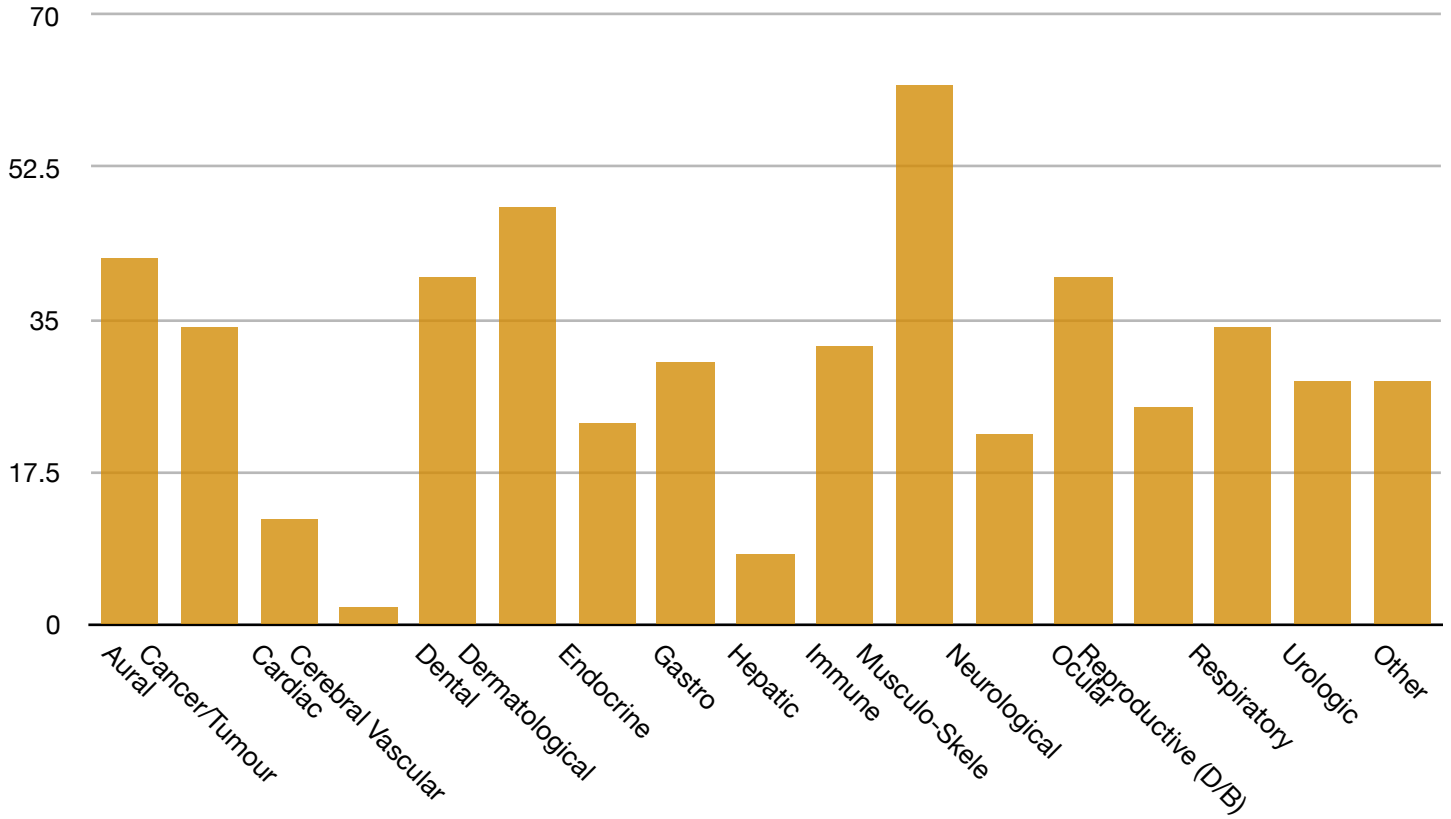
79% of the SWD were not tested, 16% were tested clear and 11% tested affected. A number of SWD's were reported as being too young to be tested at the time of the survey.

With the new BVA/KC/ISDS Eye Scheme going through a pilot study these results are likely to change as the examination is now required every three years.

Other Reported Health Conditions/Treatments:

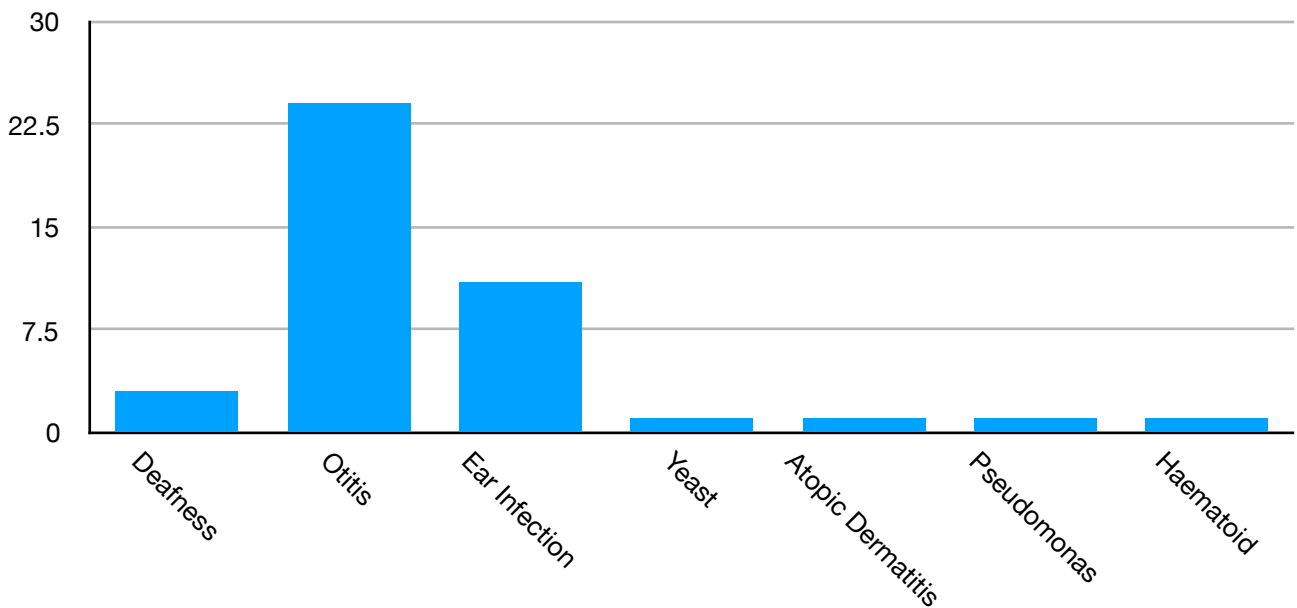
The survey asked owners to report any and all conditions their SWD’s may have had over the course of their life.

It’s not surprising that the most reports came from SWDs having muscle-skeletal injuries or treatments.



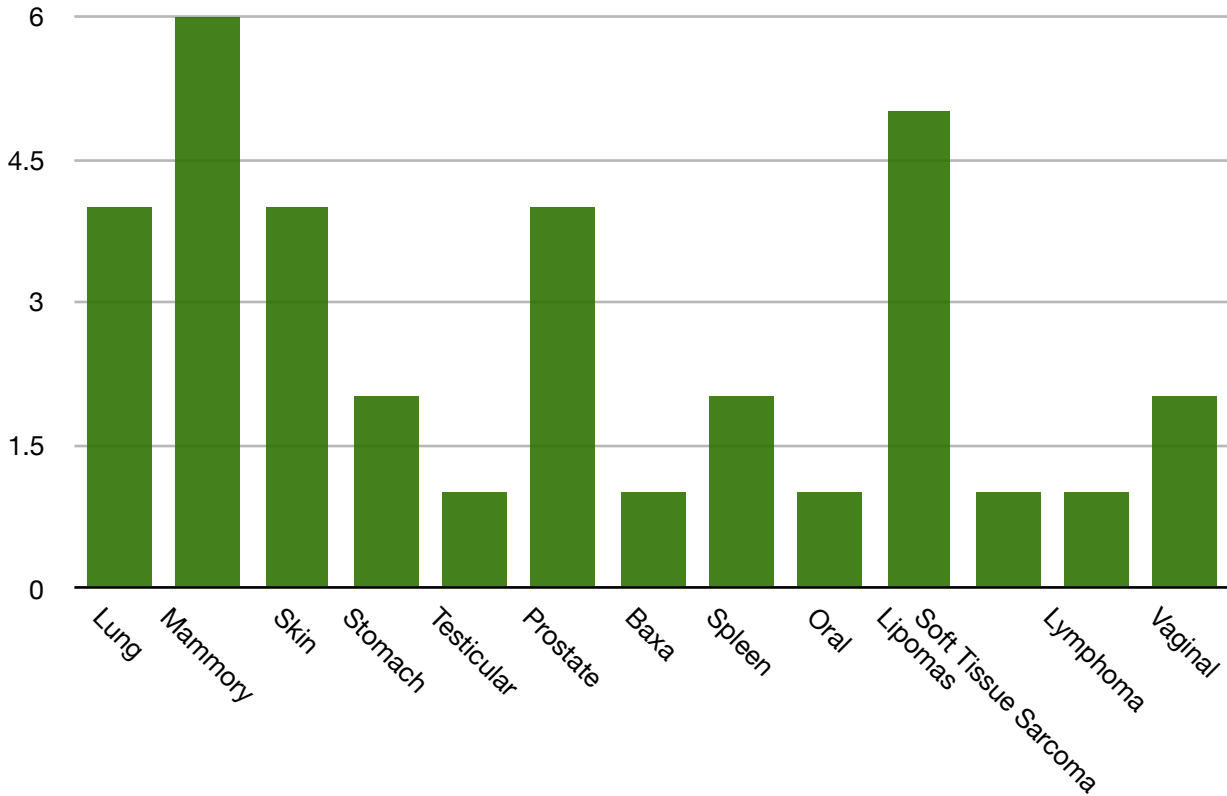
Aural Health Conditions:

24 SWD’s were reported to have Otitis at some point. This is an inflammation of the ear, the second highest reported ear concern was ear infections - 11 reports. This is estimated to be around 6.8% of those taking part.



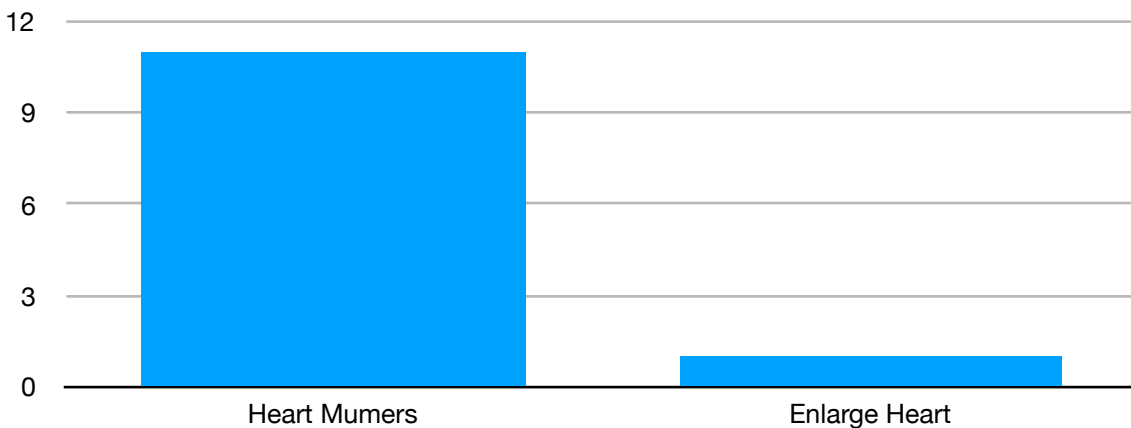
Cancers / Tumours:

34 (6%) reports of SWD with reported and diagnosed cancer or tumours. The highest report was for bitches having mammary tumours - around 2% of the total number of bitches taking part.



Cardiac:

The two reported heart conditions were commented on - 11 heart murmurs (2%) and one with an enlarge heart (0.19%).



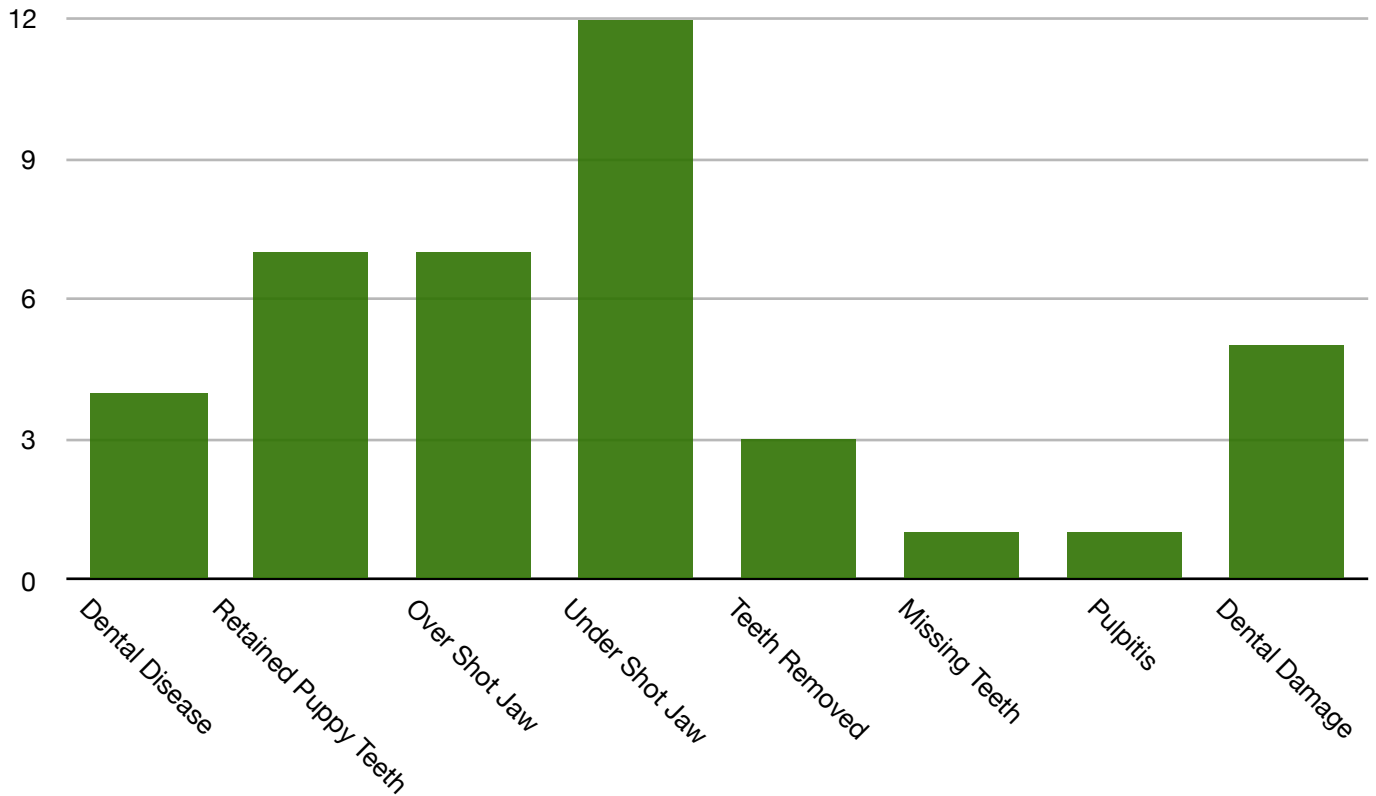
Cerebral Vascular:

There were only two reports for SWD with cerebral vascular issues, which came from dogs reported having strokes.

Dental:

It is expected that a SWD should have a “full” dentition, which should comprise of 42 teeth in a scissor bite. The results showed 12 (2.3%) SWD’s with under shot jaws, and a number of dental issues/missing teeth and teeth extractions.

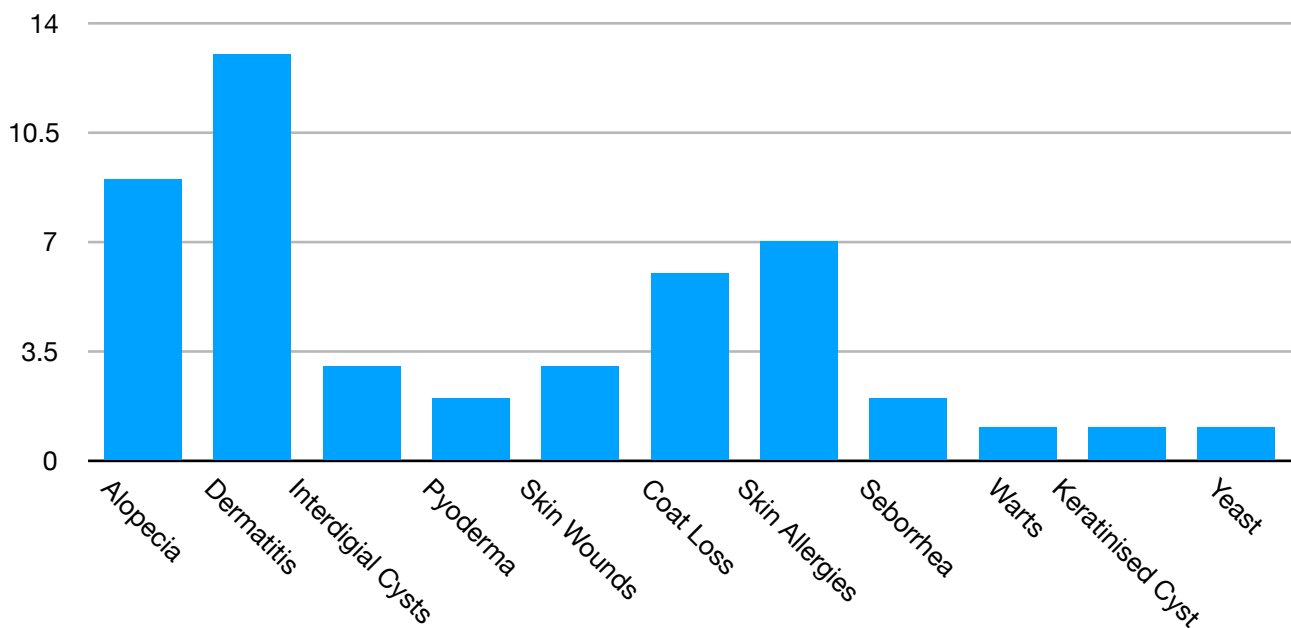
These results could be down to genetics, nutrition, trauma, environment and mechanical forces.



Dermatological:

Over all there were 48 dermatological issues reported, which is around 9% of the total survey.

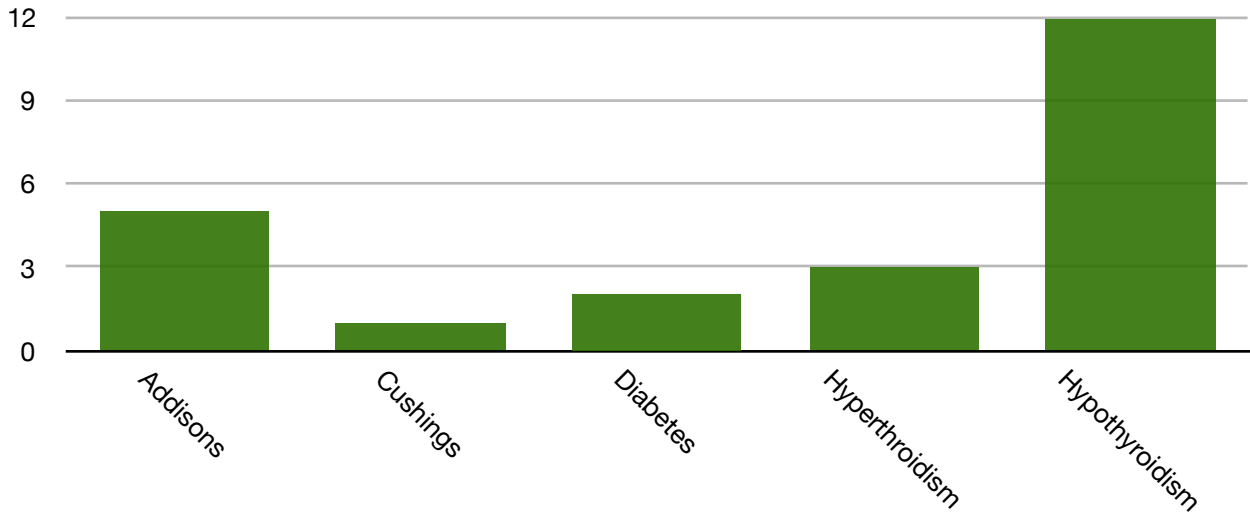
13 reports of SWD with dermatitis, a number of reports on skin allergies mainly due to ingredient intolerance or environmental intolerances which resulted in the SWD having bald patches, redness, itchy skin and coat loss.



Endocrine Systems:

Hypothyroidism and hyperthyroidism were reported as the top Endocrine health concerns totalling 15 (2.9%) of surveys completed.

The Spanish Water Dog of American are researching and recommending SWD's tested for hypothyroidism.

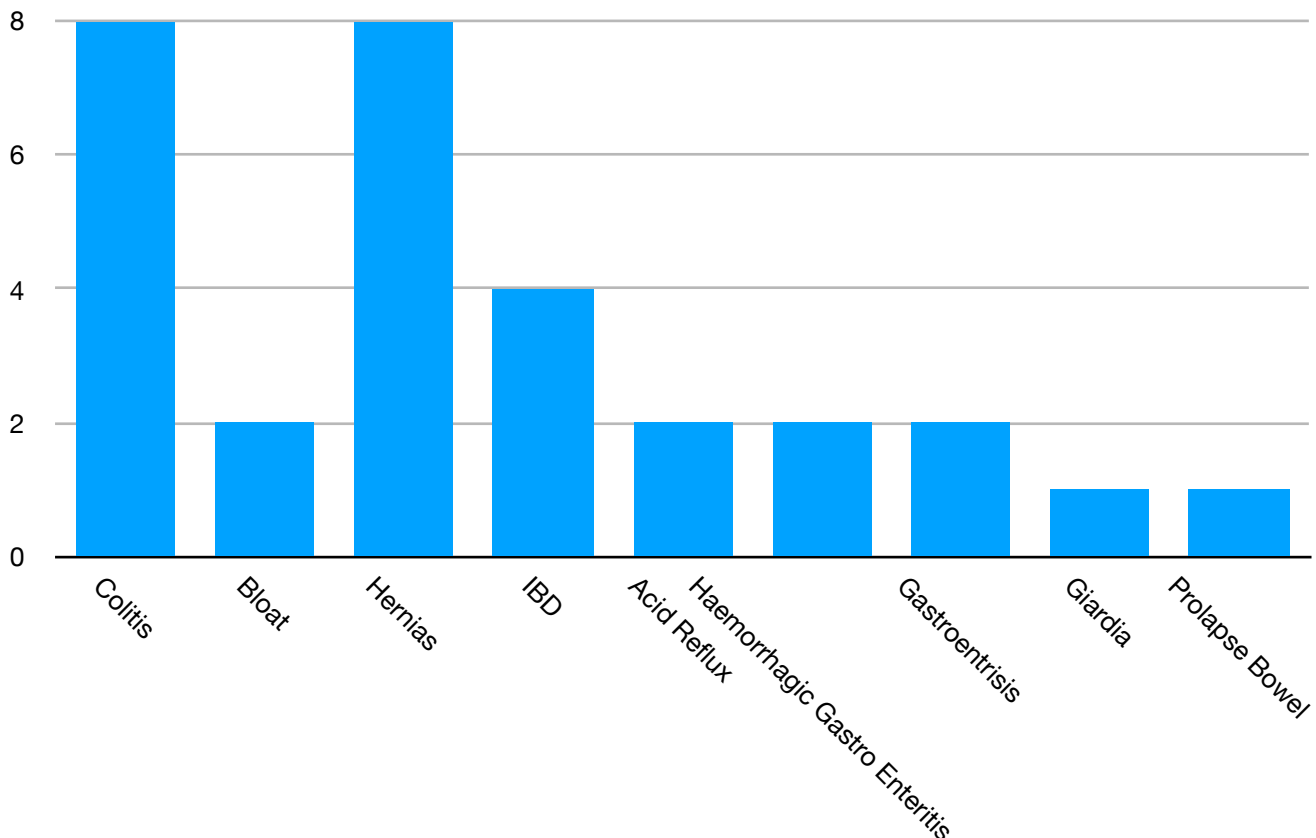


Gastrointestinal:

30 cases of gastrointestinal conditions were reported which is around, 5.8%.

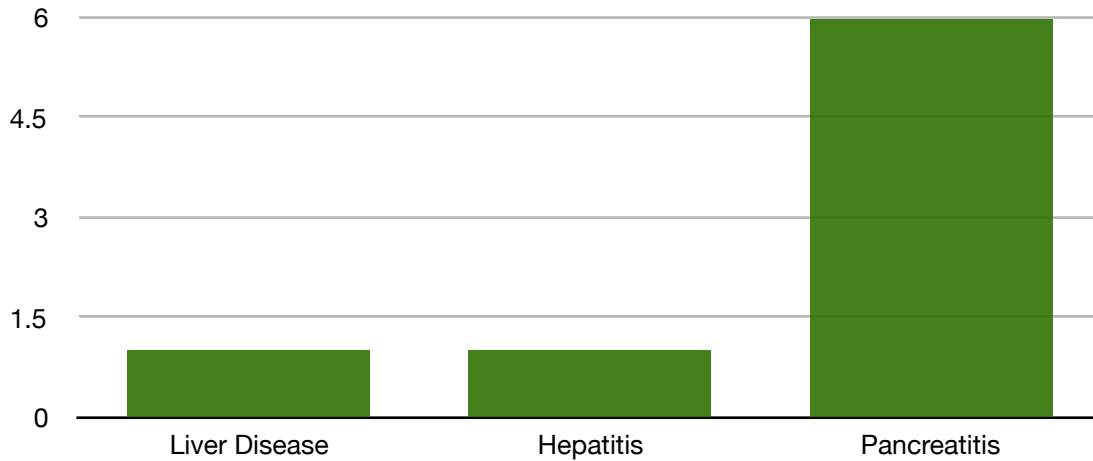
Some of the concerns about digestive upsets were also listed under “allergies” due to SWDs having a reaction or intolerance to particular ingredients which were listed in immune system section.

Colitis and Hernias were listed as the top reports in gastrointestinal condition with eight cases each (1.5%).



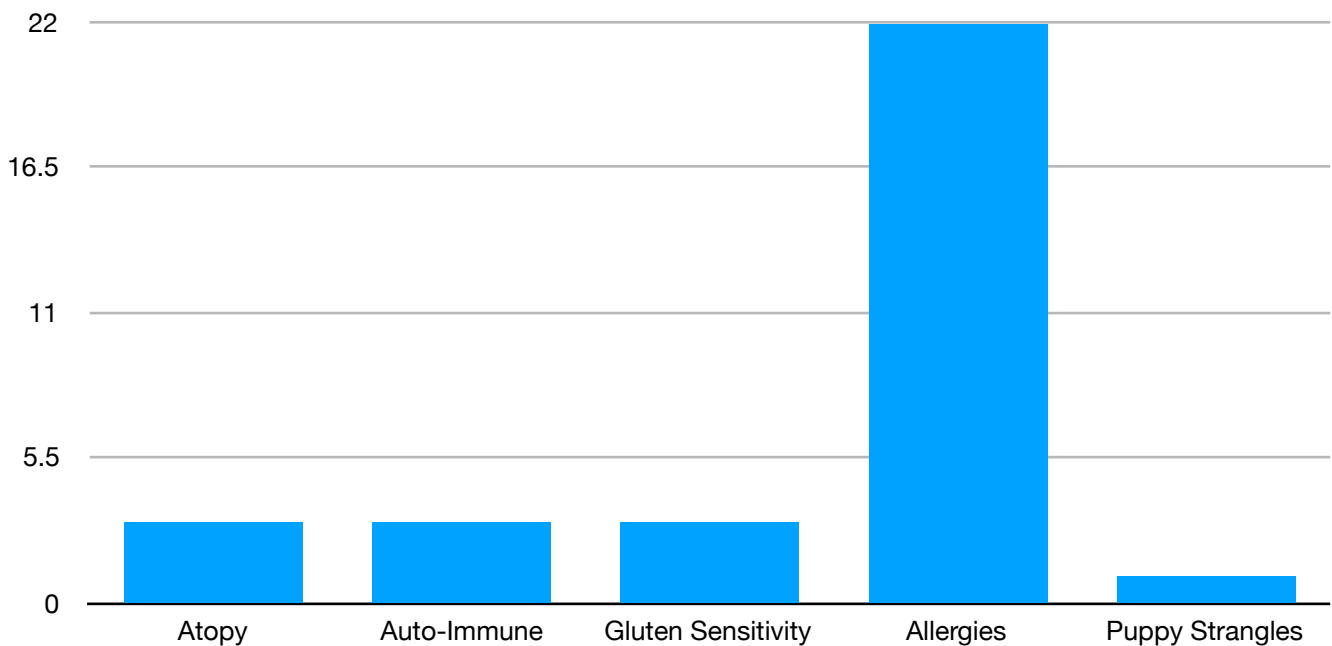
Hepatic Conditions:

Conditions reported to the live/kidney's were low with only one reported case in each. Pancreatitis had six reports which is around 1.1% of the dogs taking part. A couple of these were reported in very young dogs. It has been suggested by the Animal Health Trust that pancreatic issues could be related to hypothyroidism. One of the reports had a dog suffering from both these conditions.



Immune System:

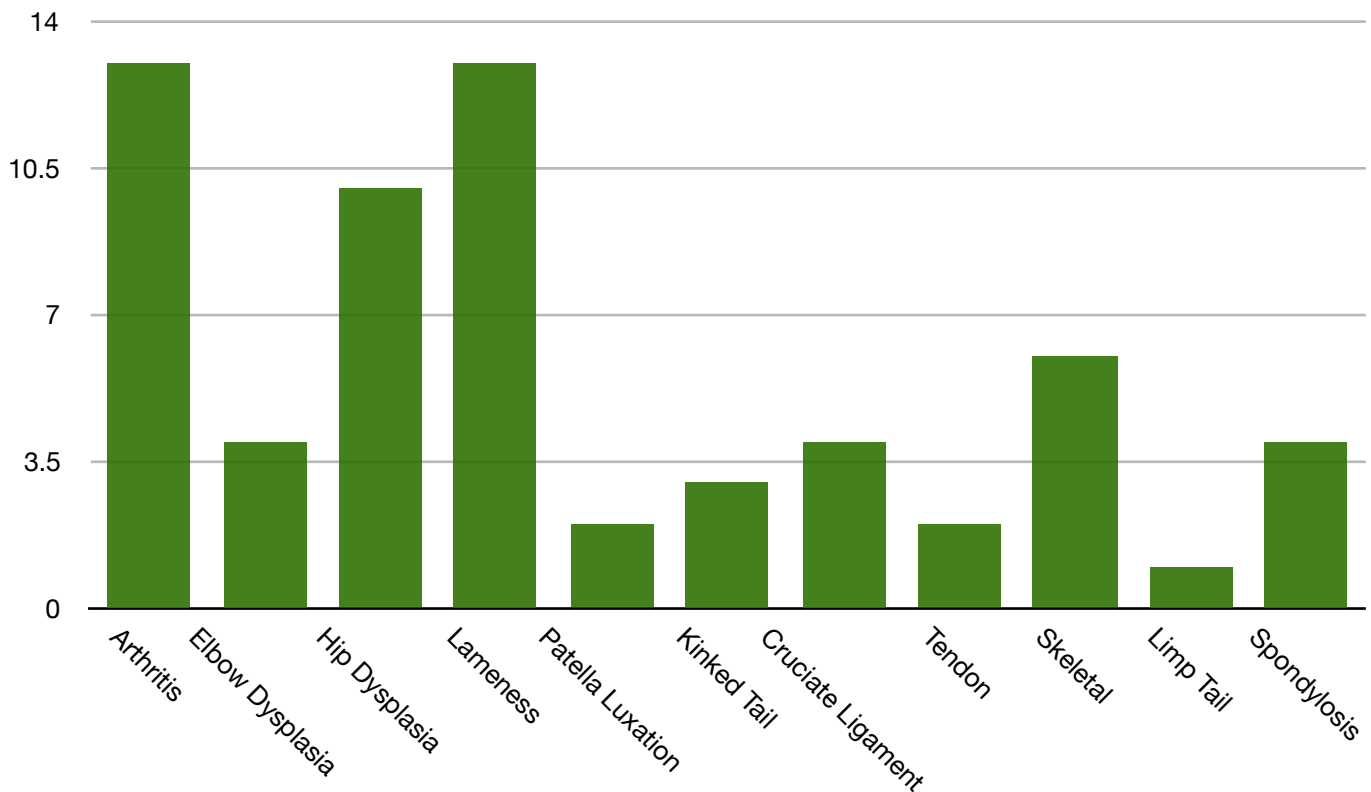
With immune conditions these could contribute to other conditions or from other conditions as well. Allergies was high with 22 reports (4.3%) however these were split into, skin contact allergies, food/digestive allergies, perscription/treatment allergies. Some of the reports from “flea/worming” treatment reaction/allergy (34), could also be included in this section rising the number to a total of 56 - 10.9% of the reports have a SWD with an allergy of some variety.



Musculo-Skeletal

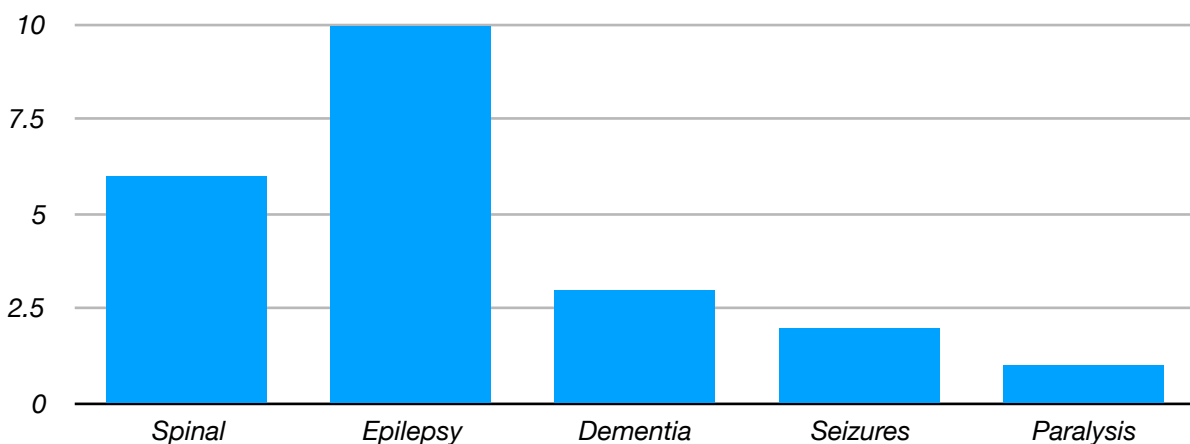
With a breed that is very active, it is not surprising that skeletal reports were the highest area of concern. This is a new area we included in this survey and it might need more research into this. 62 reports of SWD with some kind of musculoskeletal trauma/damage/injury or condition, which is around 12.1%.

The top concerns were listed as arthritis, which was reported mainly from elderly dogs and two younger dogs who had suffered trauma at a young age resulting in the joints having arthritis. Lameness was recorded for SWD's who received an injury that did not require medical treatment in all cases. The report of these dogs showed over exercise, working/gundog injury, and general "being a typical SWD."



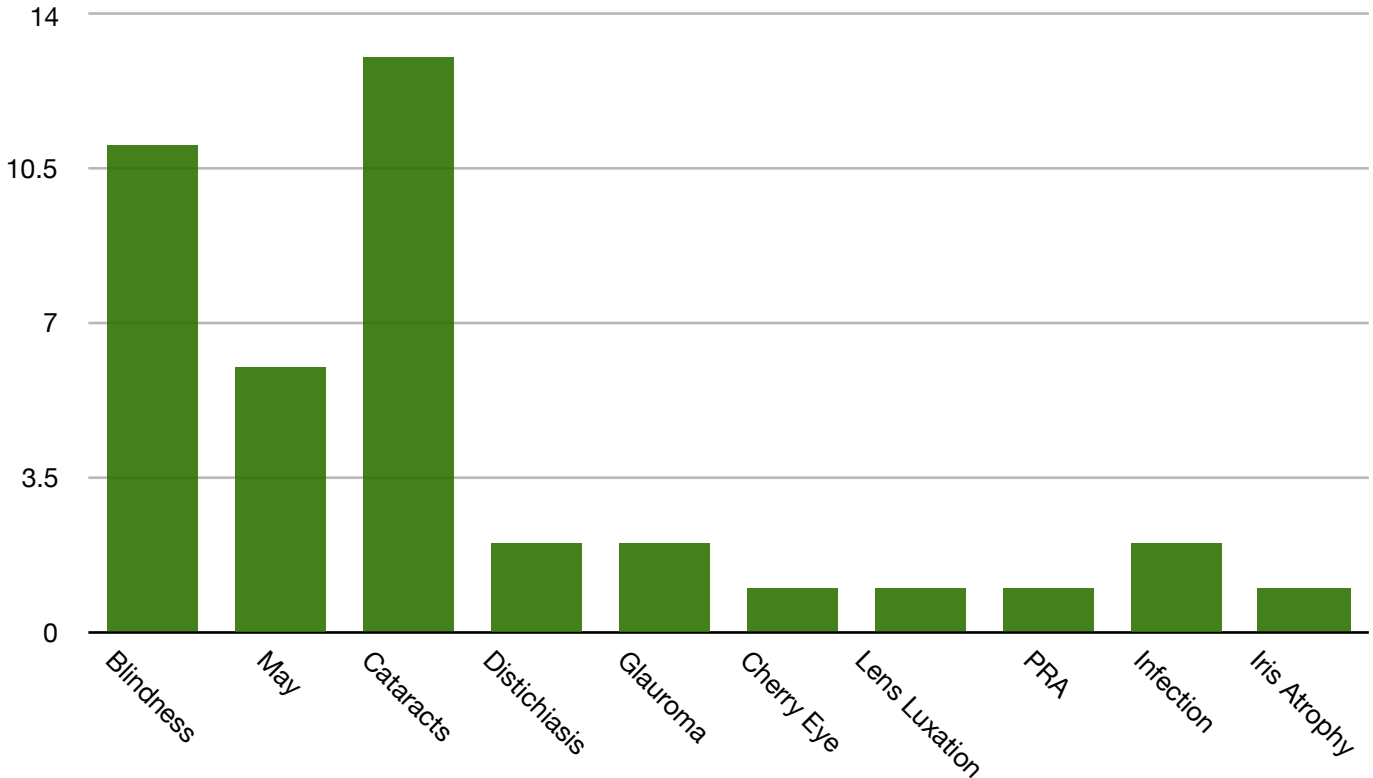
Neurological:

A noticeable area of increase has been in the number of SWDs reported with epilepsy. Previous reported 2, this has increased to 10 reported cases. This is an area that we will be keeping a close eye on. Any with reports of their SWD with epilepsy would be encourage to get in touch.



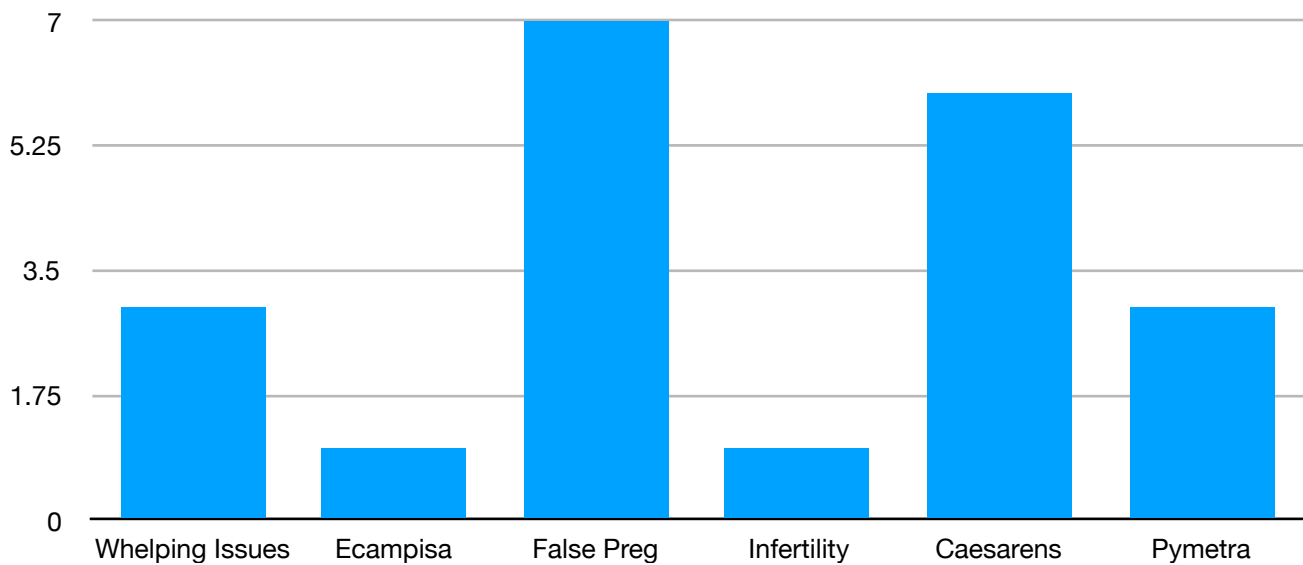
Ocular:

The common eye condition reported was cataracts. The same with the 2014 report. This however has increase from 4 dogs, to 13. This is still only 2.3% of the whole survey. Most of the reports in the survey are from older dogs, and with the introduction of more eye screening this is something that will continue to be monitored by the Health Team and the KC.



Bitch Reproductive:

There were 21 reports from 283 bitches (7.4%) these included seven reports of false pregnancy experience, caesareans, three pymetra. Overall a low record of reproductive conditions in bitches.

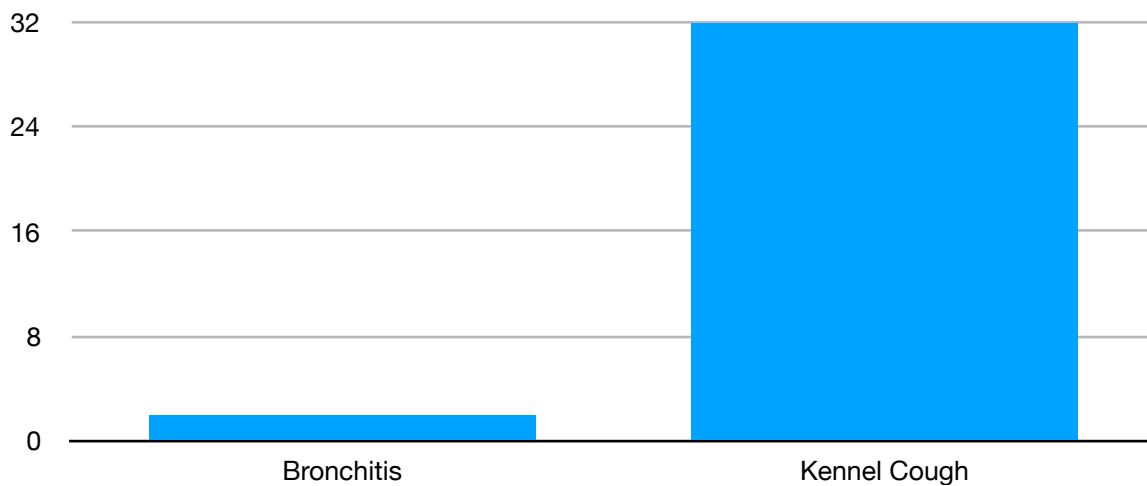


Dog Reproductive:

There was only one reported dog reproductive issue which was dogs suffering with cryptorchidism a total of four reports (1.7%). Unlike bitches you can clearly see in dogs and is considered to be a hereditary condition. Genes are carried by both the dam and sire.

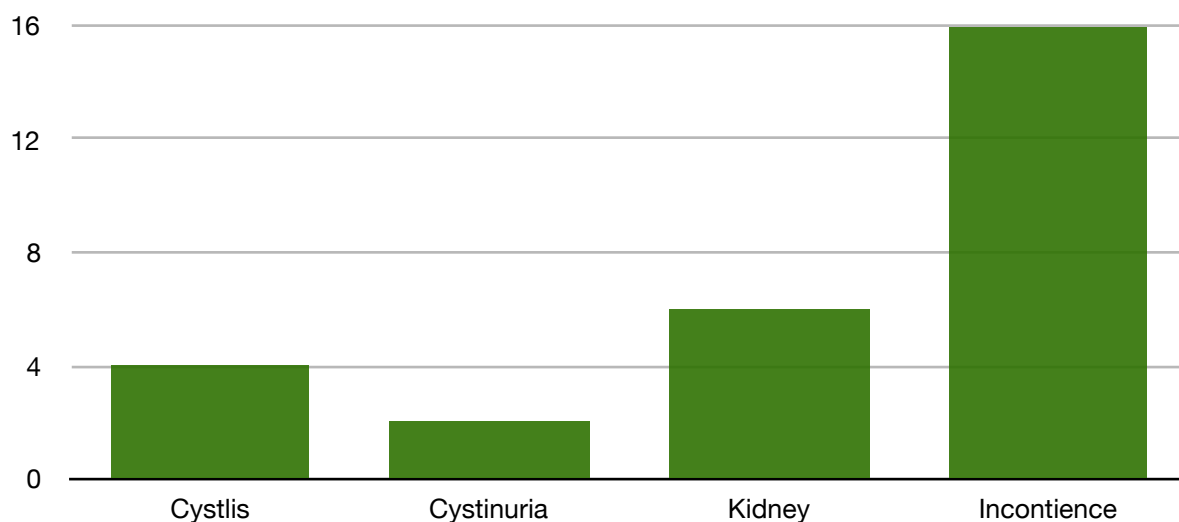
Respiratory:

32 (6.6%) SWDs were reported with suffering from kennel cough. Comments from some of the reports (12) mentioned that the SWD caught kennel cough on more than one occasion.



Urologic Conditions:

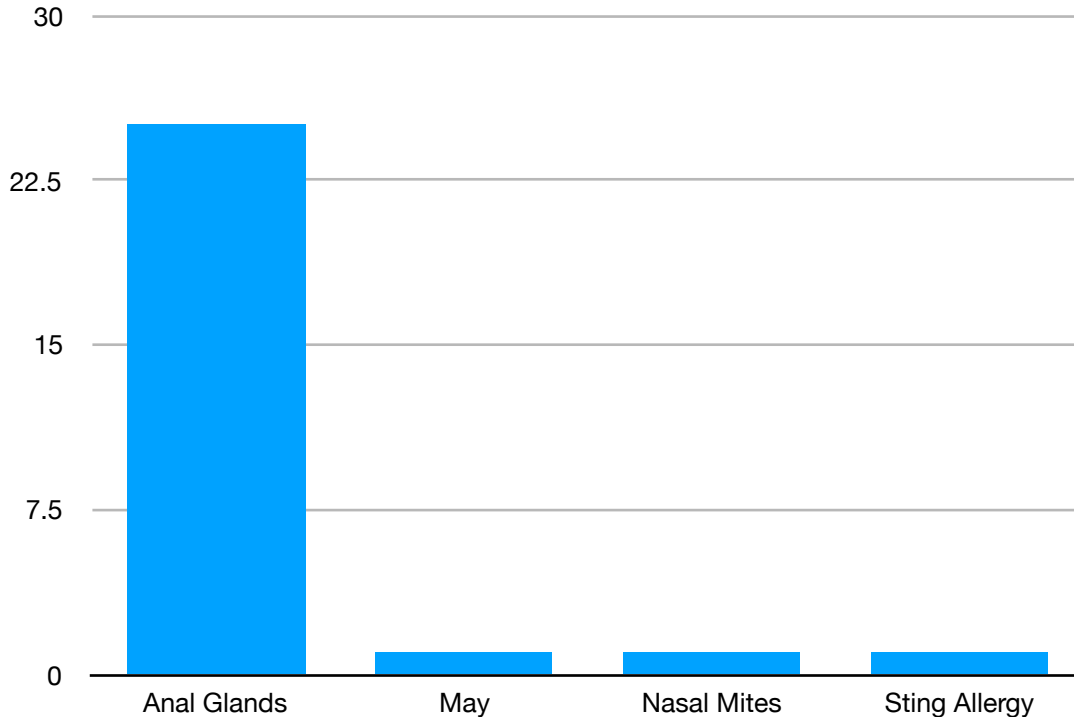
16 reports (3.1%) of SWDs having concerns/issues with incontinence. This included two dogs who suffered problems following being spayed. 11 were due to old age and a decrease in the muscles.



Other Conditions:

Not every condition that a SWD can suffer from can be summed up in the survey so we left a section for “other” giving participants a chance to let us know about anything further.

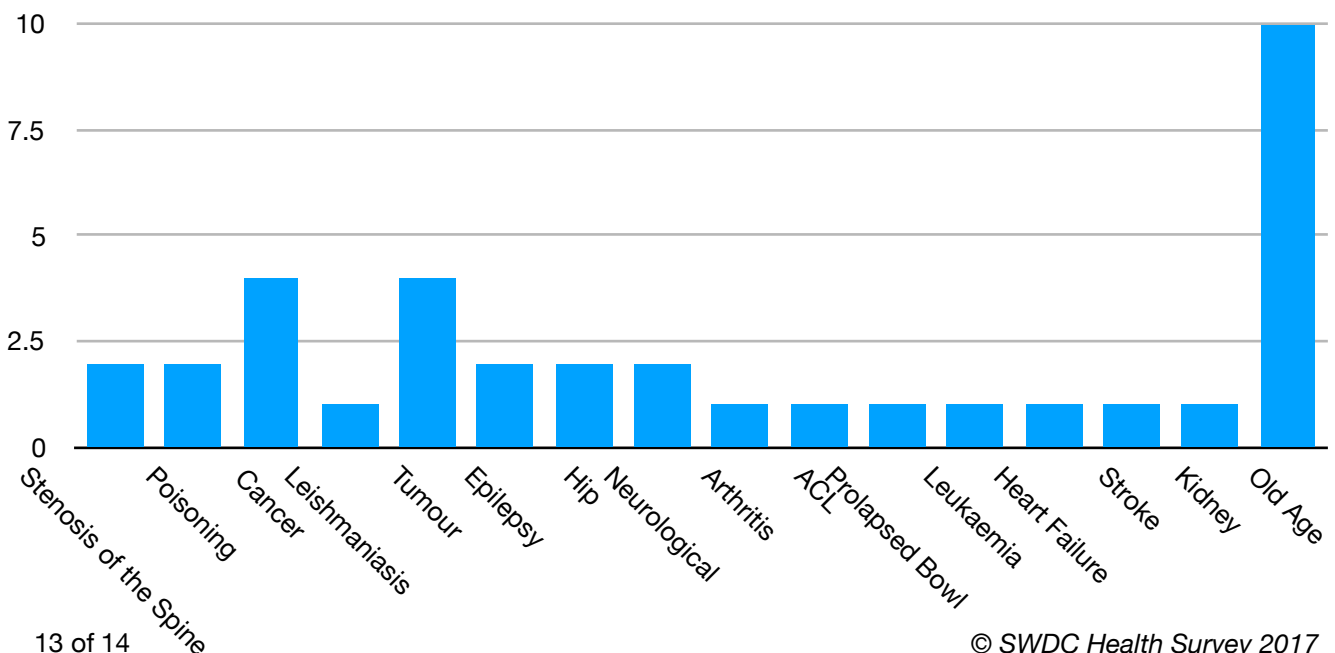
The main reported “other” condition was SWDs with anal gland concerns 22 report (4.3%). From continuing blocking up to the point of requiring survey, to scooting along the ground.



Mortality:

36 reports in the survey were for SWD’s who had passed away. The age range for these reported deaths were from 7 weeks to 17 years.

10 reports were from SWDs passing away due to old age. The youngest at 7 weeks was diagnosed with stenosis of the spine.



Still to Review:

Following the 2014 survey feedback was gathered that participants were interested to review character and temperament of the breed. This information is still being reviewed and we hope to have a report for this over the Spring/Summer time.

Record of Survey:

All the data gathered in the survey is anonymously used and no information or personal data will be passed on. The data gathered in this survey is as accurate as those that completed the information. During the time the survey was open - 12 entries were updated following results of health tests, the death of a SWD and diagnoses from a vet.

Improvements:

With every survey it is nice to have feedback of areas you wish to see and report.

The size of the survey was long and the Health Team would like to have an online survey available all year round rather than conducting surveys every three years. This might be more beneficial to collect the data and review this yearly to keep up to date on any health concerns.

Due to the length of the survey a number of comments were passed on that the wording for character and temperament didn't follow for their SWD.

Thanks:

Thank you must be said to the Kennel Club Health Team who have helped with the SWDC in reviewing the information and data.

Along with everyone in who took part. With our your information and details we would not be able to review the health and research for Spanish Water Dogs and we hope to be able to offer help for many years to come.