

Dachs-Life 2012

Report on the Dachshund Breed Council's Health Survey

Dachshund Breed Council



Introduction:

Dachs-Life 2012 was a survey of UK Dachshunds that was conducted between January 1st 2012 and March 31st 2012. The survey was widely advertised among the Breed Club community and also to many owners of pet Dachshunds, via online discussion groups and Facebook.

The Breed Council's Health and Welfare Sub-committee would like to express its thanks to everyone who helped promote the survey and to those Breed Clubs that kindly printed paper copies and distributed them to their members.

The response to this survey has been truly remarkable. A total of 1501 surveys were captured online; some of these were entered from paper copies of the Survey Forms, but the majority were entered online by individual dog owners.

After removing duplicate entries and other data clean-up, there were 1464 reports which were used for analysis. By way of comparison, the Kennel Club's 2004 Health Survey received reports for 509 live Dachshunds and the largest breed response in 2004 was from Golden Retrievers with 1717 reports.

Dachs-Life 2012 was designed to be a survey of UK Dachshunds over a three month period. We asked owners to list any pre-existing health conditions and to report any dogs that died during the period of the survey. Sadly, 27 dogs died during the survey (1.8%). Clearly, this is not a large number and it was not the prime aim of the survey to identify causes of mortality, or age of death.

This report presents the headline results and further reports will be prepared with additional analysis.

Statistical Significance:

The UK Dachshund population is estimated at around 60,000 dogs. Therefore, the 1464 reports represents 2.4% of the UK population.

The larger the sample size, the more sure you can be that the survey answers truly reflect the wider population. Statisticians use the terms “Confidence Level” and “Confidence Interval” when referring to results of surveys.

Based on our 1464 results, at the 95% Confidence Level we can report a Confidence Interval of 2.5. So, for example if 10% of Dachshunds in our survey were reported to have a particular health condition we could be confident 95% of the time that between 7.5% and 12.5% of the wider population would also have that health condition (i.e. 10% +/- 2.5%).

All tests for significance in this report are made at the 95% Confidence Level.

Further information on sample sizes, Confidence Levels and Confidence Intervals can be found at <http://www.surveysystem.com/sscalc.htm>

The Dachs-Life 2012 sample of Dachshunds:

The reports were submitted by a wide range of Pet (35% of dogs) and Show (65% of dogs) owners.

	Dogs	Bitches	Total	
Smooth	61	76	137	9.4%
Long	67	77	144	9.8%
Wire	93	136	229	15.6%
Mini Smooth	133	218	351	24.0%
Mini Long	117	207	324	22.1%
Mini Wire	95	184	279	19.1%
Total	566	898	1464	100.00%
	39%	61%		

The average (Mean) age of Dachshunds was 5.3 (5 years, 4 months). The Median age was 4.2 (4 years, 2 months). The median age of the 508 live dogs in the KC 2004 survey was 4 years and 12 months (min=1 month, max=16 years and 11 months).

The oldest dog reported in Dachs-Life 2012 was a Mini Wire who died aged 21 years and 3 months. The oldest live dog reported was a Wire aged 19 years and 2 months. The youngest dog reported was a 3 day old Mini Smooth, born with a Cleft Palate.

The average (Mean) age of death for the 27 dogs who died between 1st January and 31st March 2012 was 11 years. For comparison, the KC Survey in 2004 reported a median age of death of 12.8 (from 245 deaths); the Dachs-Life median age of death was 11.8.

Four of the deaths were related to IVDD (presumably PTS), 6 to Cardiac conditions and the rest were a range of other causes. There are too few dogs who died during the period of our survey to draw any conclusions as to their cause of death. In the KC's 2004 survey the top four causes of death were "Old Age", "Cancers", "Cardiac" and "Neurologic" reasons.

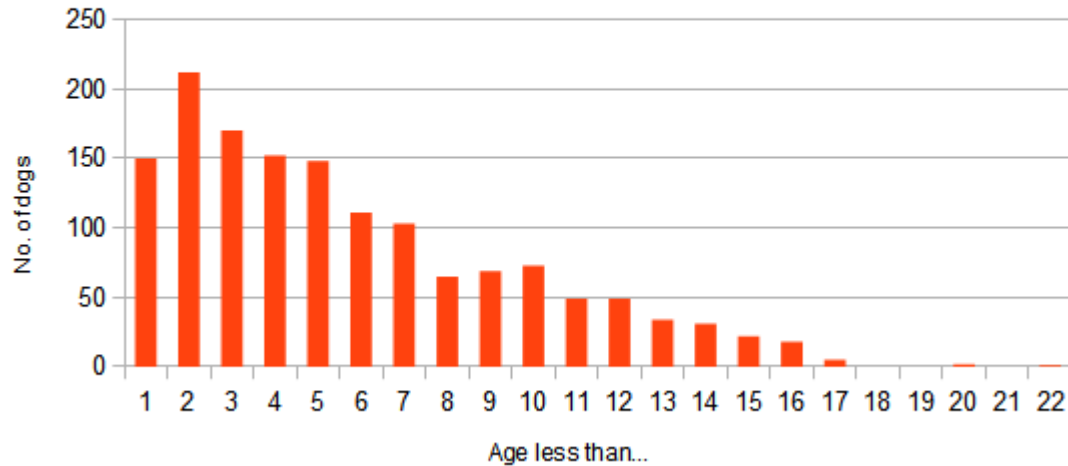
The age profile of dogs in the survey was as follows:

Age less than	No. of dogs
1	150
2	212
3	170
4	152
5	148
6	111
7	103
8	65
9	69
10	73
11	49
12	49
13	34
14	31

15	22
16	18
17	5
18	0
19	0
20	2
21	0
22	1
Total	1464

Age Profile of Dachshunds

(N = 1464)



Understanding the significance of this age profile is important because there are some health conditions which have a particular age of onset.

For example, 30% of dogs were aged between 4 and 7 which is the typical age range when Dachshunds begin to suffer from back problems. Approximately 47% of the dogs in the survey were aged less than 4 years old and therefore likely to be below the age of risk for back disease. 57 dogs out of 353 over the age of 8 were reported to have suffered from back disease (16%). 37 out of 1111 dogs under the age of 8 had suffered from back disease (3%). More detail on back disease is presented later.

Breeding status:

We asked if dogs and bitches had been neutered or bred from. 1384 neuter status reports were received and 1427 breeding status reports were received.

	Neuter status				Breeding status			
Gender	Intact	Neutered	Total	%	Bred from	Not bred from	Totals	%
Dog	369	170	539	39%	169	382	551	39%
Bitch	549	296	845	61%	413	463	876	61%
Totals	918	466	1384	100%	582	845	1427	100%

Health Reports:

In the following sections we present the overview analysis of each of the broad health categories used in the survey. Further, more detailed, analysis will be reported separately.

Aural:

This category asked about Deafness and Otitis Externa and there were 40 reports of these two conditions. Given the average age and owners' comments on the dogs reported as Deaf, there are no major concerns here.

	Deafness	Otitis Externa	Totals	%	Prevalence
Smooth	2	0	2	5%	1.5%
Long	2	1	3	8%	2.1%
Wire	1	3	4	11%	1.7%
Mini Smooth	4	0	4	11%	1.1%
Mini Long	15	2	17	45%	5.2%
Mini Wire	5	3	8	21%	2.9%
Totals	29	9	38	100%	2.6%
Prevalence	2.0%	0.6%	2.6%		
Avg. Age	14.8	5.8			

Cancers and Tumours:

This category asked about 7 types of cancer or tumour:

1. Lung
2. Mammary
3. Ovarian
4. Skin
5. Stomach
6. Testicular
7. Prostate

In the KC's 2004 survey, Cancers and Tumours accounted for 2% of reported cases (live dogs). Here it is 3.5%, but the difference is not statistically significant at the 95% Confidence Level.

The 3.6% prevalence of Mammary Tumours is of most concern in this category and further analysis will be done to look at variety, age and neuter status.

	Lung	Mammary	Ovarian	Skin	Stomach	Testicular	Prostate	Totals	%	Prevalence
Smooth		1		4				5	10%	3.6%
Long		4			1	1		6	12%	4.2%
Wire		2		2		1	1	6	12%	2.6%
Mini Smooth		2		3				5	10%	1.4%
Mini Long	1	14		2	2			19	37%	5.9%
Mini Wire		9			1			10	20%	3.6%
Totals	1	32	0	11	4	2	1	51	100%	3.5%
Prevalence	0.1%	3.6%	0.0%	0.8%	0.3%	0.4%	0.2%	3.5%		
Avg. Age	10.4	11.6		8.0	13.9	9.0	9.4			

Cardiac:

This category asked about Heart Murmurs, Heart Rhythm Disorders, Mitral Valve Disease, Sick Sinus Syndrome.

	Heart Murmur	Heart Rhythm Disorder	Mitral Valve Disease	Sick Sinus Syndrome	Totals	%	Prevalence
Smooth	4	1			5	11%	3.6%
Long	6	1			7	16%	4.9%
Wire	12	1	3	1	17	39%	7.4%
Mini Smooth	1				1	2%	0.3%
Mini Long	6	2			8	18%	2.5%
Mini Wire	6				6	14%	2.2%
Totals	35	5	3	1	44	100%	3.0%
Prevalence	2.4%	0.3%	0.2%	0.1%	3.0%		
Avg. Age	11.2	8.8	8.8	9.6			

The WHDC has previously investigated heart disease in Standard Wires and here we have found Wires to have the highest prevalence of heart disorders at 7.4% and representing 39% of all reported heart conditions. This is a statistically significant difference from the prevalence in the other varieties (at the 95% Confidence Level). 12 Wires had Heart Murmurs, with an average age of 12.2, the youngest being 6.4. We do not know the age of diagnosis for these heart conditions, but three Wire deaths associated with heart conditions were reported (ages 2, 11, 12).

Cerebral Vascular:

The only health condition reported in this category was Strokes. Five reports were received; one was (surprisingly) a puppy, one was 6.9 and three were over the age of 13.

	Cerebral Vascular	Totals	%	Prevalence
Smooth		0	0%	0.0%
Long		0	0%	0.0%
Wire		0	0%	0.0%
Mini Smooth	1	1	20%	0.3%
Mini Long	3	3	60%	0.9%
Mini Wire	1	1	20%	0.4%
Totals	5	5	100%	0.3%
Prevalence	0.3%	0.3%		

Dental:

This category included: Dental Disease, Retained Puppy Teeth and over or undershot mouths.

	Dental Disease	Retained Puppy Teeth	Overshot	Undershot	Totals	%	Prevalence
Smooth	5		2	1	8	7%	5.8%
Long	5		2		7	6%	4.9%
Wire	4	3	1		8	7%	3.5%
Mini Smooth	11	6	2		19	16%	5.4%
Mini Long	36	1	4	2	43	36%	13.3%
Mini Wire	14	19	1		34	29%	12.2%
Totals	75	29	12	3	119	100%	8.1%
Prevalence	5.1%	2.0%	0.8%	0.2%	8.1%		
Avg. Age	10.9	2.9	4.7	10.4			

In the KC's 2004 survey Dental Disease accounted for 5% of reports; here it is 8.1%, which is a statistically significant difference. However, it is not clear whether Over/Undershot were conditions included in the KC survey. If Over/Under-shot are removed, the difference is not statistically significant.

The existence of dental disease in elderly dogs is perhaps not unexpected but, on the basis of these data, it is more common in the Miniatures than the Standard varieties. Although the difference is statistically significant this might be expected simply because there tend to be more elderly Minis than Standards. However, the average age of Minis with Dental Disease was 10.9 and the average age of the Standards was 11.2; i.e. both sizes were virtually the same age. Retained puppy teeth in Mini Wires is an issue that has been identified in previous surveys and the difference between MW and the other varieties is statistically significant at the 95% Confidence Level.

Dermatological:

The four conditions in this category were: Alopecia, Dermatitis, Interdigital Cysts and Pyoderma. 6% of reports in the KC's 2004 survey were for Dermatologic conditions. Here the prevalence is 3.1% and this difference is statistically significant.

	Alopecia	Dermatitis	Interdigital Cysts	Pyoderma	Totals	%	Prevalence
Smooth		2	4		6	13%	4.4%
Long		1			1	2%	0.7%
Wire	2	7	1	1	11	24%	4.8%
Mini Smooth	5	11		2	18	40%	5.1%
Mini Long	1	4			5	11%	1.5%
Mini Wire	2	1		1	4	9%	1.4%
Totals	10	26	5	4	45	100%	3.1%
Prevalence	0.7%	1.8%	0.3%	0.3%	3.1%		
Avg. Age	4.1	5.8	7.4	6.9			

The low prevalence of Alopecia is good to see since this is a condition widely reported as being of concern in Dachshunds, particularly of the Smooth-coated varieties.

Endocrine system:

This category looked at Addison's, Cushings, Diabetes, Hyper and Hypo-thyroidism. The 2004 survey had a prevalence of 2%; here it is 1.0%, but this difference is not statistically significant.

	Addison's	Cushing's	Diabetes	Hyperthyroidism	Hypothyroidism	Totals	%	Prevalence
Smooth		1	2	1		4	27%	2.9%
Long		1				1	7%	0.7%
Wire					1	1	7%	0.4%
Mini Smooth		1	1		1	3	20%	0.9%
Mini Long		3	1			4	27%	1.2%
Mini Wire		2				2	13%	0.7%
Totals	0	8	4	1	2	15	100%	1.0%
Prevalence	0.0%	0.5%	0.3%	0.1%	0.1%	1.0%		
Avg. Age		12.9	11.8	8.7	10.6			

Cushing's and Diabetes are two conditions that have been on the Breed Council's watch list, particularly in Smooth Dachshunds. These data indicate that there is a low prevalence of both conditions and both appear to be age-related. Again, this is encouraging as these are two conditions frequently reported as being associated with Dachshunds.

Gastrointestinal:

This category looked at Colitis, Gastric Torsion (Bloat), Hernias (Umbilical/Inguinal), Irritable Bowel Disease and Mega-oesophagus. This category accounted for 2% of conditions reported in 2004. Here it is 3.6% which is not a statistically significant difference.

	Colitis	Gastric Torsion	Hernias	Irritable Bowel Disease	Mega-oesophagus	Totals	%	Prevalence
Smooth	3		4	1		8	15%	5.8%
Long	1		2	1		4	8%	2.8%
Wire	6		5	1		12	23%	5.2%
Mini Smooth	1	1	2	3		7	13%	2.0%
Mini Long	6	1	5	1		13	25%	4.0%
Mini Wire	4		2	2		8	15%	2.9%
Totals	21	2	20	9	0	52	100%	3.6%
Prevalence	1.4%	0.1%	1.4%	0.6%	0.0%	3.6%		
Avg. Age	7.5	10.3	6.7	6.9				

The veterinary literature reports gastric torsion (Bloat) as being a concern in Dachshunds, supposedly related to their deep chests. The data here do not suggest Bloat is a major concern in the breed.

The question on Hernias did not distinguish between Inguinal and Umbilical Hernias. There is much debate about the causes of umbilical hernias, but probably a consensus on them having a strongly inherited component. The advice would therefore be not to breed from animals with these hernias and certainly to seek veterinary advice before considering breeding from any bitch with one.

Hepatic Conditions:

Here, we asked about Chronic Liver Disease, Hepatitis and Pancreatitis. There are no major issues to comment on.

	Chronic Liver Disease	Hepatitis	Pancreatitis	Totals	%	Prevalence
Smooth			1	1	9%	0.7%
Long				0	0%	0.0%
Wire			1	1	9%	0.4%
Mini Smooth	1		1	2	18%	0.6%
Mini Long	2		4	6	55%	1.9%
Mini Wire			1	1	9%	0.4%
Totals	3	0	8	11	100%	0.8%
Prevalence	0.2%	0.0%	0.5%	0.8%		
Avg. Age	12.6		9.8			

Immune System:

This category asked about Atopy, Auto-immune Disease, Gluten-sensitive Enteropathy and various allergies. In the 2004 survey this category accounted for 1.2% of reports. Here it is 2.8%, which is a statistically significant difference. However, we do not know if some allergies were categorised as Dermatologic conditions in the 2004 survey.

	Atopy	Auto-immune Disease	Flea Allergy	Gluten-sensitive Enteropathy	Grass Allergy	Other Allergies	Totals	%	Prevalence
Smooth					1	7	8	20%	5.8%
Long		1			2	3	6	15%	4.2%
Wire	2		4		8	3	17	41%	7.4%
Mini Smooth			1		2	8	11	27%	3.1%
Mini Long		2	2	1	10	4	19	46%	5.9%
Mini Wire					3	3	6	15%	2.2%
Totals	2	3	7	1		28	41	100%	2.8%
Prevalence	0.1%	0.2%	0.5%	0.1%		1.9%	2.8%		
Avg. Age	4.7	9.7	6.1	10.4	7.2	6.0			

The major statistically significant difference here is in the Wire vs. Mini Wire overall prevalence rates.

Musculo-skeletal Conditions:

This category asked about Arthritis, Elbow and Hip Dysplasia, Lameness, Patellar Luxation and Kinked Tails. This category accounted for 3.9% of reports in 2004 and is 3.8% here (not statistically different).

	Arthritis	Elbow Dysplasia	Hip Dysplasia	Lameness	Patellar Luxation	Kinked Tail	Totals	%	Prevalence
Smooth	2			2		1	5	9%	3.6%
Long	4	2			2		8	15%	5.6%
Wire	3		1			1	5	9%	2.2%
Mini Smooth	2			1	5	3	11	20%	3.1%
Mini Long	6		3	3	6	4	22	40%	6.8%
Mini Wire				3		1	4	7%	1.4%
Totals	17	2	4	9	13	10	55	100%	3.8%
Prevalence	1.2%	0.1%	0.3%	0.6%	0.9%	0.7%	3.8%		
Avg. Age	11.8	7.5	5.8	7.7	4.8	7.3			

The incidences of Arthritis in elderly dogs is perhaps to be expected.

What is perhaps more of a surprise here are the incidences of Patellar Luxation (1.4% prevalence in MS and 1.9% in ML). This is a condition which is quite widespread among many Toy breeds and for which a veterinary screening test is available. In the USA, the OFA database reports 5.3% of Dachshunds as being affected with PL, but does not specify the variety of Dachshund. This may be a condition worthy of further investigation.

Neurological - Intervertebral Disc Disease:

In the KC's 2004 survey, IVDD was included in the Neurological category, which also included reports of Epilepsy. The prevalence for the category in 2004 was 6.9%. Here, the overall prevalence is 6.8% (5.8% Back and 1.0% Neck).

	IVDD – Back	IVDD – Neck	Totals	%	Prevalence
Smooth	19	2	21	21%	15.3%
Long	2		2	2%	1.4%
Wire	8		8	8%	3.5%
Mini Smooth	24	3	27	27%	7.7%
Mini Long	13	1	14	14%	4.3%
Mini Wire	19	8	27	27%	9.7%
Totals	85	14	99	100%	6.8%
Prevalence	5.8%	1.0%	6.8%		
Avg. Age	8.8	9.7			

Although we can identify the prevalence of back disease in our sample, we do not know the age of onset or diagnosis for any of these reports.

The 15.3% prevalence rate in Smooths is a statistically significant difference from the rates in Longs and Wires.

The average age of Smooths with IVDD - Back was 8.3. For Longs it was 11.5. For Wires it was 9.0.

The average age of Mini Smooths with IVDD - Back was 7.9, for Mini Longs it was 9.9 and Mini Wires it was 9.5.

When analysed by age, the differences in prevalence are more interesting. For Smooth and Mini Smooth Dachshunds over the age of 5, and Mini Wires over the age of 10, the figures are much closer to those typically quoted in the veterinary research into IVDD (i.e. that 20-25% of Dachshunds will suffer some degree of back disease during their lives).

IVDD	Age	Age	Age
	0-4	5-9	10+
Smooth	4.1%	25.5%	35.3%
Long	0.0%	0.0%	8.3%
Wire	0.8%	5.4%	10.0%
Mini Smooth	1.2%	26.5%	26.1%
Mini Long	0.7%	7.4%	7.6%
Mini Wire	1.4%	15.8%	27.0%

Neurological - Non-spinal:

This category looked at Dementia, Epilepsy, Lafora Disease and Narcolepsy. The overall prevalence for the category was 2.2%.

	Dementia/Senility	Epilepsy	Lafora	Narcolepsy	Totals	%	Prevalence
Smooth					0	0%	0.0%
Long		2			2	6%	1.4%
Wire		1			1	3%	0.4%
Mini Smooth	2	1			3	9%	0.9%
Mini Long	2	12		1	14	44%	4.3%
Mini Wire	1	1	10		12	38%	4.3%
Totals	5	17	10	1	32	100%	2.2%
Prevalence	0.3%	1.2%	3.6% (in MW)	0.1%	2.2%		
Avg. Age	14.4	7.7	8.1	13.5			

Epilepsy is a condition that has been investigated previously in Wirehaired Dachshunds (by the WHDC) so it is encouraging to see only one case reported here.

Anecdotally, Epilepsy in Mini Longs has been discussed, but it has been difficult to get much data about the prevalence of the condition. Here, 12 cases represents a prevalence of 3.7%, compared with a reported prevalence of around 4% in dogs in general. This level of Epilepsy in MLHD is a statistically significant difference from that reported in the other five varieties. The average age of the MLHDs with Epilepsy was 8.6, but we do not know the age of onset/diagnosis for these dogs.

Lafora Disease in MWHD is an autosomal recessive condition and is a current priority of the Breed Council, with a screening programme in place for Affected/Not-Affected dogs and under development for full Clear/Carrier/Affected screening. A 3.6% prevalence is lower than has been found in the 2010 and 2011 DNA screening programmes, where approx. 10% of dogs were tested as Affected. However, Lafora is a late onset disease and therefore the overall prevalence rate is skewed by the number of young dogs in the survey sample and the small number that have actually been DNA tested.

7 of the 10 dogs reported here were aged 5 or over and the prevalence of Lafora in that age group is 7.6%. Given the margin of error for this sample, we can be confident that the population prevalence of Lafora Disease lies in the range 5-10%.

Ocular:

This category asked about Blindness (unspecified causes), Blocked Tear Ducts, Cataracts, Distichiasis, Entropion, Ectropion, Glaucoma, PRA and SARDS. In the 2004 Survey, the prevalence of eye conditions was 4.7%. Here it is 4.5% which is not significantly different.

	Blindness	Blocked Tear Ducts	Cataracts	Distichiasis	Ectropion	Entropion	Glaucoma	PRA	SARDS	Totals	%	Prevalence
Smooth	3	1					1			5	8%	3.6%
Long	1		1							2	3%	1.4%
Wire	2									2	3%	0.9%
Mini Smooth	4	4	6					6		20	30%	5.7%
Mini Long	1	2	8	9				6	1	27	41%	8.3%
Mini Wire	2		7			1				10	15%	3.6%
Totals	13	7	22	9	0	1	1	12	1	66	100%	4.5%
Prevalence	0.9%	0.5%	1.5%	0.6%	0.0%	0.1%	0.1%	0.8%	0.1%	4.5%		
Avg. Age	12.9	6.2	13.3	5.4		5.9	2.6	6.1	13.5			

Eye diseases are more common in the Miniatures than the Standards and the Breed Council's current recommendation is that clinical eye testing should be carried out as well as the DNA test for cord1 PRA in Miniatures. Clinical eye examinations of Standards would also be good practice.

The cases of Blindness due to unspecified causes are largely in elderly dogs and are an expected function of old age. This is also true of the cases of Cataracts.

The prevalence of Distichiasis in Mini Longs is 2.8% and it is important to note that this is the only variety where this condition was reported in our survey. The AHT's research screening of Mini Longs (checking for PRA) in 2010 identified 43% of Mini Longs with this condition; a worryingly high proportion. However, neither the extent of the condition, nor its health impact, in that study are known. A research study into a larger sample of Mini Longs is currently being planned by the Miniature Dachshund Club and Long-haired Dachshund Club.

The cases of PRA were only found in Mini Longs (1.9% prevalence) and Mini Smooths (1.7% prevalence) and this verifies the anecdotal evidence we previously had. Given the average age of these dogs (6.1, with a range of 3 - 13) it seems likely this is related to the cord1 PRA, which is known to range from early to late onset, depending on whether or not the cord1 mutation and the second modifying mutation are both present.

Reproductive - Female:

This category asked about Dystocia (uterine inertia), Difficulty getting in whelp, Eclampsia, Fading Puppies, False Pregnancy, Infertility, Reabsorbed Puppies. In the 2004 survey, male and female Reproductive conditions were grouped together, so we cannot make a comparison with this survey's overall prevalence rate of 10.5%.

	Dystocia	Difficult to get in whelp	Eclampsia	Fading Puppies	False Pregnancy	Infertility	Reabsorbed Puppies	Totals	%	Prevalence
Smooth	1	2		1	9			13	14%	17.1%
Long	6	3			2			11	12%	14.3%
Wire	7	1	2	1	11			22	23%	16.2%
Mini Smooth	7	1	1	5	3			17	18%	7.8%
Mini Long	2	4	1	2	3			12	13%	5.8%
Mini Wire	4	2	4	1	7		1	19	20%	10.3%
Totals	27	13	8	10	35	0	1	94	100%	10.5%
Prevalence	3.0%	1.4%	0.9%	1.1%	3.9%	0.0%	0.1%	10.5%		
Avg. Age	7.5	6.8	5.8	6.0	5.6		7.0			

Dystocia and False Pregnancies are the main issues here. The Smooths and Wires seem to be particularly prone to False Pregnancies with prevalences of 12% and 8% respectively.

Reproductive - Male:

This category asked about Cryptorchidism and Infertility. The overall category prevalence was 3.5%.

	Cryptorchidism	Infertility	Totals	%	Prevalence
Smooth	1	1	2	10%	3.3%
Long	1		1	5%	1.5%
Wire			0	0%	0.0%
Mini Smooth	4	1	5	25%	3.8%
Mini Long	4	1	5	25%	4.3%
Mini Wire	6	1	7	35%	7.4%
Totals	16	4	20	100%	3.5%
Prevalence	2.8%	0.7%	3.5%		
Avg. Age	4.9	8.0			

Cryptorchidism is more of a problem in the Miniatures than the Standards and, because it is believed to be an inherited condition, the advice is that cryptorchid dogs should not be used at stud.

Respiratory:

This category asked about Bronchitis, Kennel Cough and Pneumonia. In 2004 this category had a prevalence of 3%; here it is 4.6% and the difference is not statistically significant.

	Bronchitis	Kennel Cough	Pneumonia	Totals	%	Prevalence
Smooth		2		2	3%	1.5%
Long		3		3	4%	2.1%
Wire		8		8	12%	3.5%
Mini Smooth	1	28	2	31	46%	8.8%
Mini Long	1	3		4	6%	1.2%
Mini Wire		18	2	20	29%	7.2%
Totals	2	62	4	68	100%	4.6%
Prevalence	0.1%	4.2%	0.3%	4.6%		
Avg. Age	14.4	3.8	5.1			

The rates of Kennel Cough in the Mini Smooths and Mini Wires are significantly higher than in the other varieties (with no obvious reason).

Urologic Conditions:

This category asked about Incontinence, Cystitis, Cystouroliths (Stones) and Kidney Failure. The 2004 survey had 2 reports (0.4%) and here we have 2.5% overall.

	Incontinence	Cystitis	Cystouroliths	Kidney Failure	Totals	%	Prevalence
Smooth	2	1			3	8%	2.2%
Long	2	4			6	17%	4.2%
Wire	1	2			3	8%	1.3%
Mini Smooth	3	4	1		8	22%	2.3%
Mini Long	2	4	1		7	19%	2.2%
Mini Wire	2	4	3		9	25%	3.2%
Totals	12	19	5	0	36	100%	2.5%
Prevalence	0.8%	1.3%	0.3%	0.0%	2.5%		
Avg. Age	10.1	8.0	9.6				

The cases of incontinence were mostly in dogs over the age of 7, although there were cases in a dog aged 2 and one aged 3.

Other Health Conditions:

The survey asked about other health problems not listed. The most commonly mentioned problems were Anal Glands, Caesareans and specific allergies (in response to the "Other Allergies" option). Other conditions mentioned included: Cherry Eye, Cheilitis, Corneal Lipids, Hyperkeratosis, Histiocytoma, Pes Varus and Pyometra. There were no major issues identified from this additional section of the health report.

Vaccination Status:

We asked whether dogs were vaccinated annually by the owner's vet. Not everybody answered this question and a few commented that their dogs were vaccinated at a different frequency (e.g. every two years). The summary of responses is below:

	Dog – Vaccinated	Dog – Not Vaccinated	Bitch – Vaccinated	Bitch – Not Vaccinated	Totals	%	Vaccinated	Not Vaccinated
Smooth	31	18	39	18	106	9%	66%	34%
Long	32	22	40	26	120	10%	60%	40%
Wire	54	21	68	40	183	15%	67%	33%
Mini Smooth	79	32	121	60	292	24%	68%	32%
Mini Long	58	46	100	81	285	23%	55%	45%
Mini Wire	48	40	80	77	245	20%	52%	48%
Totals	302	179	448	302	1231	100%	61%	39%
	24.5%	14.5%	36.4%	24.5%	100.0%			

Summary and Conclusions:

Dachs-Life 2012 has been really well-supported by UK Dachshund owners and the Breed Council's Health and Welfare Sub-committee would like to express our gratitude to everyone who has participated. The survey has confirmed many of our current priorities are valid and has identified some new areas where we will need to carry out further work.

Although we cannot report an average age of death from a large sample of Dachshunds in this survey, the Median age of death here was 11.8 years (compared with 12.8 in the KC 2004 survey - 245 deaths). The current age profile of dogs in the Dachs-Life Survey was very similar to that in the 2004 survey, so it would be reasonable to assume that the breed's median age of death is still around the 12 year mark. We should encourage more people to report the death of their Dachshund on our on-line Health Reporting site so that we can build more data on age and cause of death.

There are a number of age related conditions highlighted in the survey (dental disease, deafness, cataracts, arthritis) which should not concern us particularly as they are part of the natural ageing process and are to be expected.

1. Back Disease is the number one issue we need to address and our research programme with the Animal Health Trust is a key part of that.
 - a. The prevalence of back problems in dogs over the age of 5, particularly in the Smooth, Mini Smooth and Mini Wire varieties is a particular concern.
 - b. The fact that the other three varieties have lower rates of back disease is encouraging and may help provide a DNA differentiator which will be of use to us.
2. Heart Disease in Standard Wires is an issue that is significantly more prevalent than in the other varieties. It may be sensible to reinstate the WHDC Cardiac Screening programme.
3. Epilepsy in Mini Longs is significantly more prevalent than in any of the other varieties. This has been mentioned anecdotally, but we now have quantified evidence of a problem that needs to be investigated further.
 - a. The previous worries about Epilepsy in Wires appears no longer to be a concern.
4. Lafora Disease in Mini Wires is already being addressed by the WHDC Screening Programme and will continue to be a priority until we can be confident that Affected puppies are no longer being bred.
5. All the Miniature varieties suffer from eye diseases to a greater extent than the Standards. Clinical eye testing (preferably annually) should become the norm for all six varieties.
 - a. A research programme into Distichiasis in Mini Longs is currently being planned.
6. Compared with many other breeds, cancer is not a major issue in Dachshunds. Mammary Tumours are the only form of cancer highlighted in our survey and it may be useful to investigate this further to identify age of onset and the impact of spaying.

7. It was interesting to note a small number of cases of Patellar Luxation in the Miniature Smooth and Miniature Long varieties which may also be worth investigating further with a research screening exercise using the established Putnam 1968 method (which does not require anaesthesia).

Further reports will be produced with additional levels of analysis and a summary of the survey responses on Behaviour and Temperament.