

Boston Terrier Health Survey 2017- 2018

Data received from 111 Boston Terriers

43 male (M) 38%. of which 10 neutered 23%

68 female (F) 61% of which 27 neutered 39%

Average body weight

adult males 8.5kg (n=12; range 7-12kg)

adult females 7.5kg (n=41; range 6-9.4kg)

one considered under weight and two over weight

Longevity

Age at death was reported for 20 dogs

Males lived an average of 11 years (n=7; range 10 -12 years)

Female lived an average of 10.5 years (n=13; range 2- 15 years)

Eye Problems total	38. (34%)	Percentage of total
Corneal Ulcers	23. (20%)	
Cataracts.	10. (11%)	
Epiphora.	2. (1.8%)	
Cherry Eye.	1. (0.9%)	
Distichiasis.	1. (0.9%)	
Glaucoma.	1. (0.9%)	Resulting in enucleation

Lameness total.	18. (16.2%)
Patella luxation.	5. (4.5%)
Hemivertebra	3. (2.7%)
Arthritis.	2. (1.8%)
Disc problem.	2. (1.8%)
Syringomyelia.	2. (1.8%)
Hips.	1. (0.9%)
Spondylosis.	1. (0.9%)
Deformed toe.	1. (0.9%)
Undiagnosed.	1. (0.9%)

Hemivertebra. 7. (6.3%)

3 cases showed no clinical signs, 1 of these was associated with kyphosis and shortening of the thorax

3 were considered responsible for a lameness problem

1 was associated with spondylosis

Fits & Seizures.

Total number of reported cases. 14. (12.6%) % of total
. Fits associated with Cushings. 3. (2.7%)
CECS 1. (0.9%)
(Canine Epileptoid Cramping Syndrome)
Epilepsy and other causes. 10. (9%)

Skin problems.

Total number of reported problems. 14. (12%) % of total

Itchy/ allergic 5. (4.5%)
Hair thinning/ balding. 5. (4.5%)
Face fold infection. 1. (0.9%)
Tail fold infection. 1. (0.9%)
Facial infection. 1. (0.9%)
Demodex 1. (0.9%)

Gastro Intestinal.

Total number of reported problems. 35 (31%) % of total

Occasional Vomiting. 9 (8.1%)
Occasional diarrhoea. 9 (8.1%)
Occasional vom+diarr. 8. (7.2%)
Frequent vomiting. 1. (0.9%)
Blocked anal glands 8. (7.2%)

Neoplasia Total reported 8 (7.2%)% of total
Mast Cell. 6. (5.4%)
Mammary tumours. 2. (1.8%)

Teeth and Mouth reported problems 8. (7.2%) % of total
Tooth loss due to age/infection/ trauma. 6 (5.4%)
Wry mouth 2. (1.8%)

Cushings disease. Total cases. 5. (4.5%)

Two were female siblings one of which produced two further cases in her litter.
These are reported to show a direct family link.

Reproductive problems

Neutered for medical reasons 2 m & 3 f. 5 (4.5%)%of total
Testicles total reported problems. 2. (1.8%)
Cryptorchid. 1. (0.9%)
Tumour, of testicle - mast cell 1 (0.9%)

Pyometra 3. (2.7%)

Heart. Total number of reports. 2. (1.8%)
Murmur found at 11 weeks asymptomatic. 1. (0.9%)
Age related responded to medication. 1. (0.9%)

Miscellaneous. Total. 4. (3.6%) % of total
Diaphragmatic Hernia. 1. (0.9%)
Pancreatitis 1. (0.9%)
Pancreatic Insufficiency. 1. (0.9%)
Cystitis 1 (0.9%)

Respiratory System

Questions to indicate possible prevalence of BOAS (Brachycephalic Obstructive Airway Syndrome)

Respiratory noise at rest:

No noise 90 (81%)
Slight noise 17. (15.3%)
A lot of noise 4. (3.6%)

After 5 minutes exercise:

No noise. 92. (82%)
Slight noise. 16. (14.4%)
A lot of noise. 3. (2.7%)

After 10 minutes exercise:

Keen to exercise further. 106. (95%)
Reluctant to continue. 3. (2.7%)
Unable to continue. 2. (1.8%)

Of the 2 dogs unable to continue Hypoplastic trachea was diagnosed in 1, a puppy, which was euthanised

Severe BOAS was affecting the the other one

(very small opening at nostrils, long soft palate and restricted larynx- died post operatively).

Sue Finnett Boston Terrier BHC

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Sue Finnett BVM&S MRCVS