Pointer Health Survey 2021-2022 – OVERALL HEALTH SUMMARY

The top three categories of diagnosis for health conditions reported in the survey were skin and/ or coat, musculoskeletal, and eye (Table 1).

Table 1: Top 3 categories of diagnosis for health conditions reported in the survey

Body system	Number affected	Prevalence
Skin and/or Coat	260	23.4%
Musculoskeletal	211	18.6%
Eye	158	14.8%

The most frequently reported specific conditions were conjunctivitis, allergies (environmental), and arthritis. (Table 2).

Table 2: Top specific health conditions reported in the survey

Specific condition	Number affected	Prevalence
Conjunctivitis	98	8.3%
Allergies (environmental e.g. dust, grass)	85	7.2%
Arthritis	85	7.2%
Infrequent ear infections	53	4.5%
Lameness	51	4.3%
Dermatitis	49	4.2%
Allergies - unknown	44	3.7%
Excessive ear wax	38	3.2%
Allergies (dietary e.g. chicken, dairy)	36	3.1%
Frequent ear infections	35	3.0%

Pointer Health Survey 2022

The Pointer 2022 health survey ran from Sept 2021 to March 2022. After removing all unusable responses (for example, respondents did not consent to the Pointer Club and The Kennel Club using the data for research purposes) a total of 1,178 individual responses remained.

Of 1,178 dogs included in the survey, 1,127 (95.7%) were Kennel Club registered and 29 (2.5%) were not Kennel Club registered.
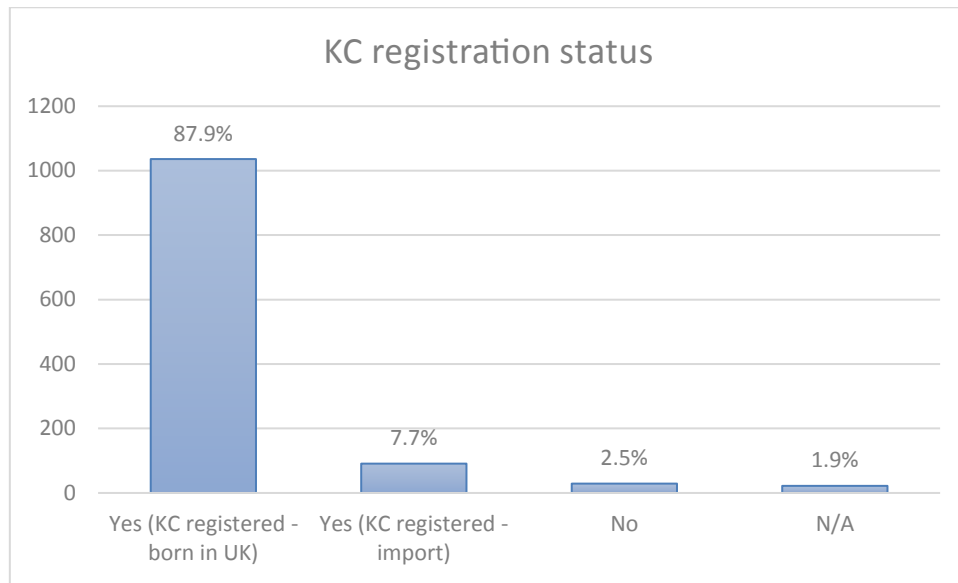

Figure 1: KC registration status of Pointers included in the survey

The median age of live dogs included in the survey (where provided) was six years four months (min= two months, max= 16 years two months). Figure 2 shows a full breakdown of the dogs' ages in years.
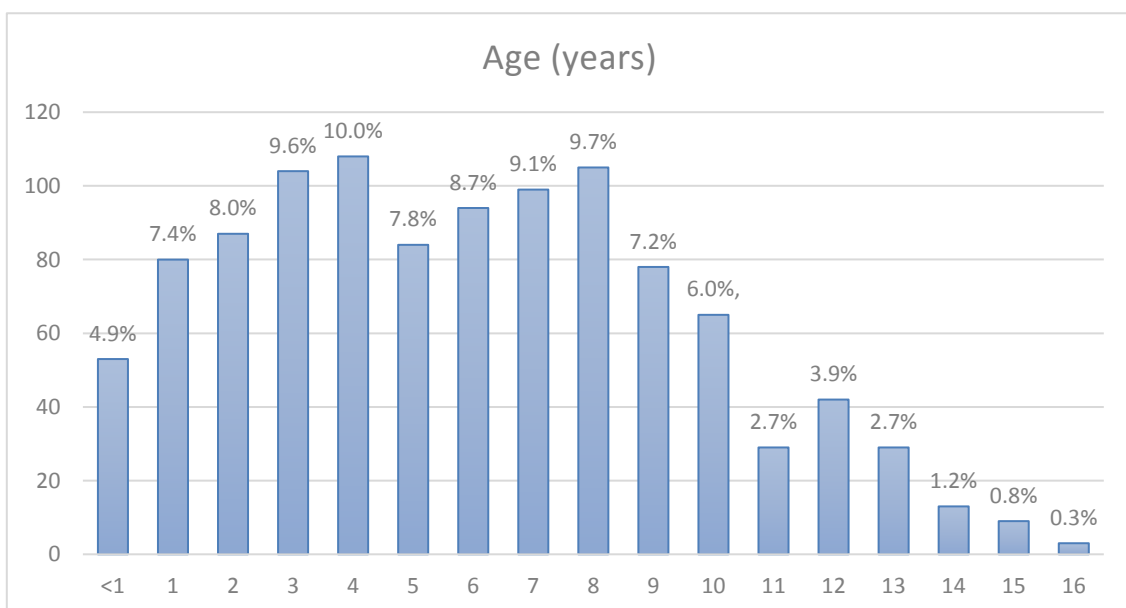

Figure 2: Age of live Pointers included in the survey

Of 1,178 dogs, 590 (50.1%) were female and 588 (49.9%) were male. When asked the neutered status of their dog, 497 (42.2%) were entire and 681 (57.8%) were neutered. Results are shown in Table 3.

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

Sex	Neutered Status		Total
	Entire	Neutered	
Female	180	410	**590**
Male	317	271	**588**
Total	**497**	**681**	**1,178**

The median weight of dogs included in the survey (where provided) was 25kg (range 15-40kg). Figure 3 shows a full breakdown of the dogs' weights in kilograms.
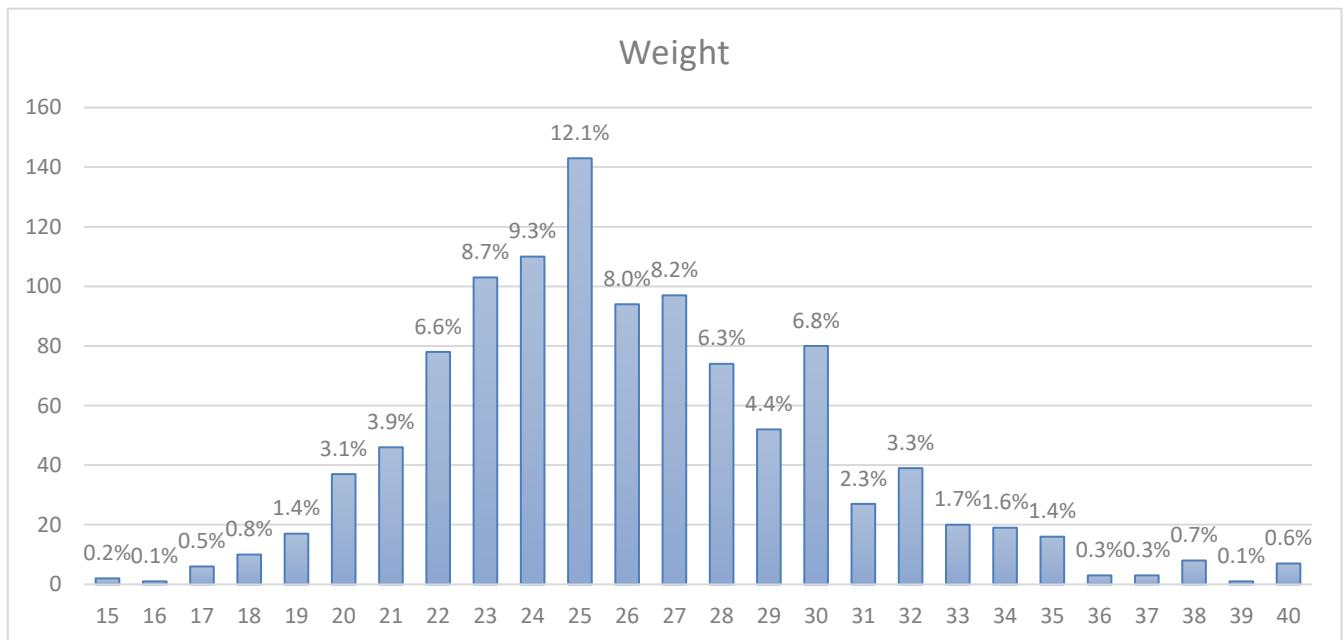

Figure 3: Weight of Pointers included in the survey

Lifestyle

Figure 4 shows where the Pointer included in the survey were housed during the day and during the night, as reported by their owners. The majority of Pointer were housed indoors during both the day (91.0%, 1,041 of 1,144) and the night (89.7%, 1,023 of 1,140).
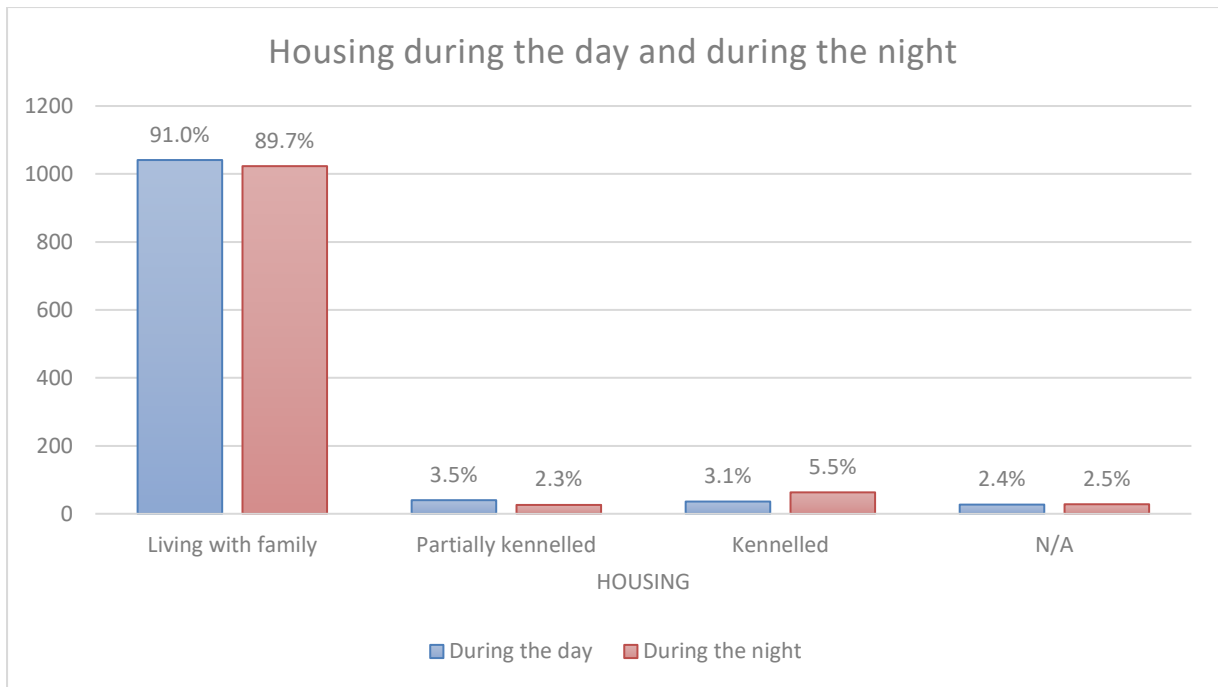
Figure 4: Housing during the day and during the night, as reported in the survey

Owners were asked to select the types of food that they feed their Pointer. The most frequently selected food type was grain-free kibble (24.5%, 501 of 2,046), followed by grain-inclusive kibble (20.5%, 420 of 2,046), and then tinned meat (15.2%, 312 of 2,046). A full breakdown of the selected food types are shown in Figure 5.
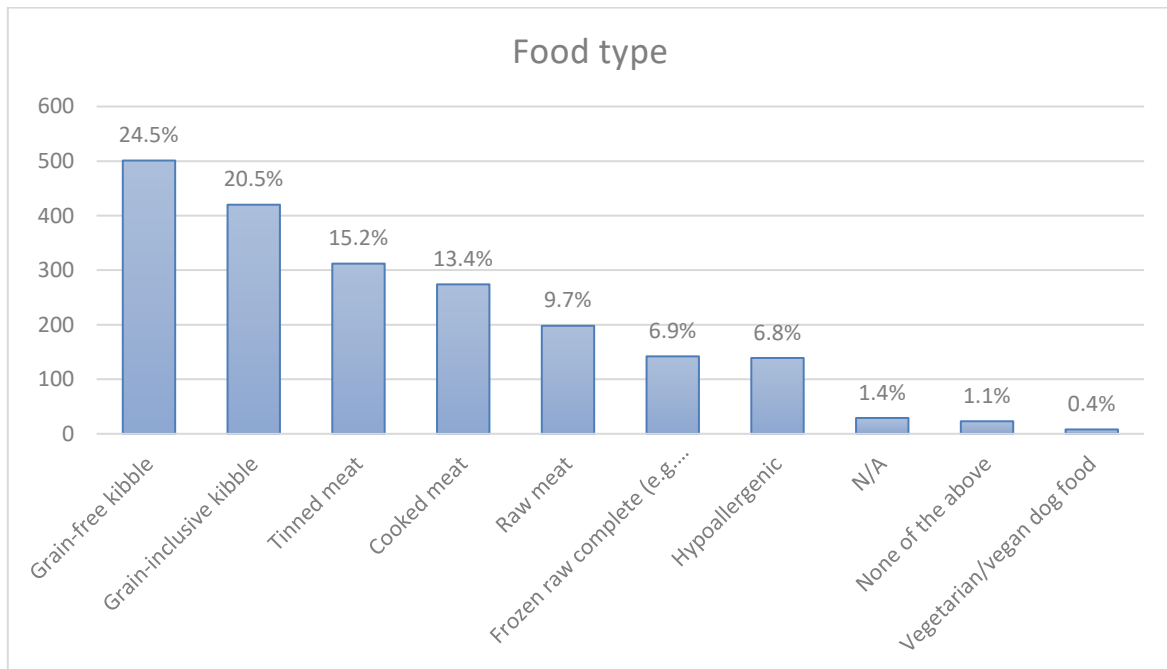

Figure 5: Types of food given to Pointers included in the survey

Owners were asked to select the types of meat that they feed their Pointer. The most frequently selected meat was chicken (20.3%, 757 of 3,725), followed by beef (13.5%, 504

of 3,725), and then fish (13.0%, 484 of 3,725). A full breakdown of the selected meat types are shown in Figure 6.
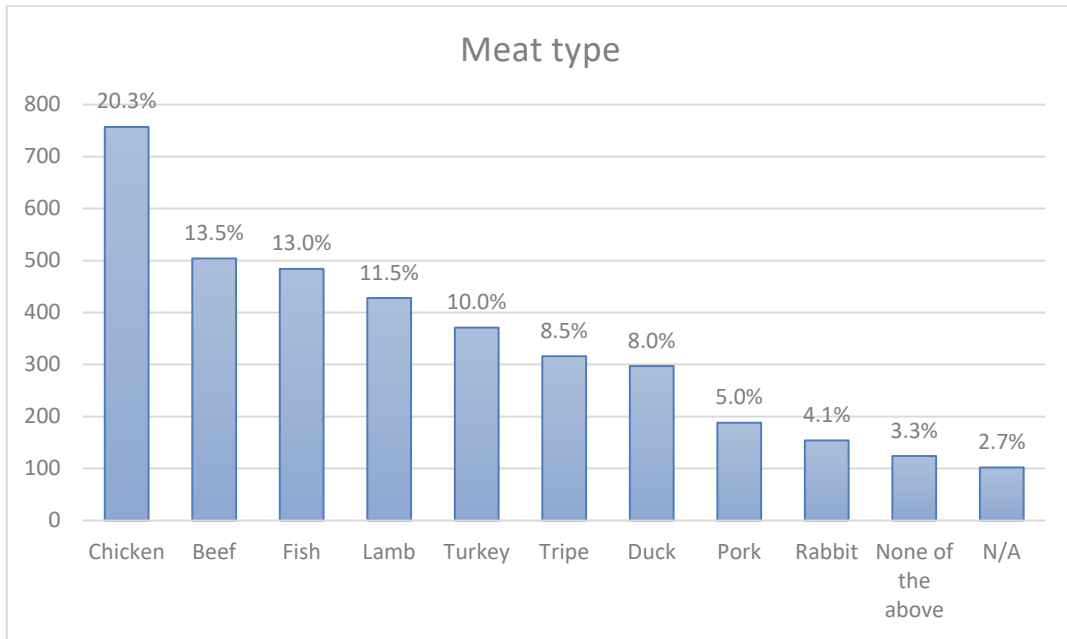

Figure 6: Types of meat given to Pointers included in the survey

Figure 7 shows the number of meals fed per day for 1,165 dogs. Most dogs were fed two meals per day (78.2%, 911 of 1,165), followed by three meals a day (8.5%, 99 of 1,165) and finally one meal a day (7.6%, 88 of 1,165).
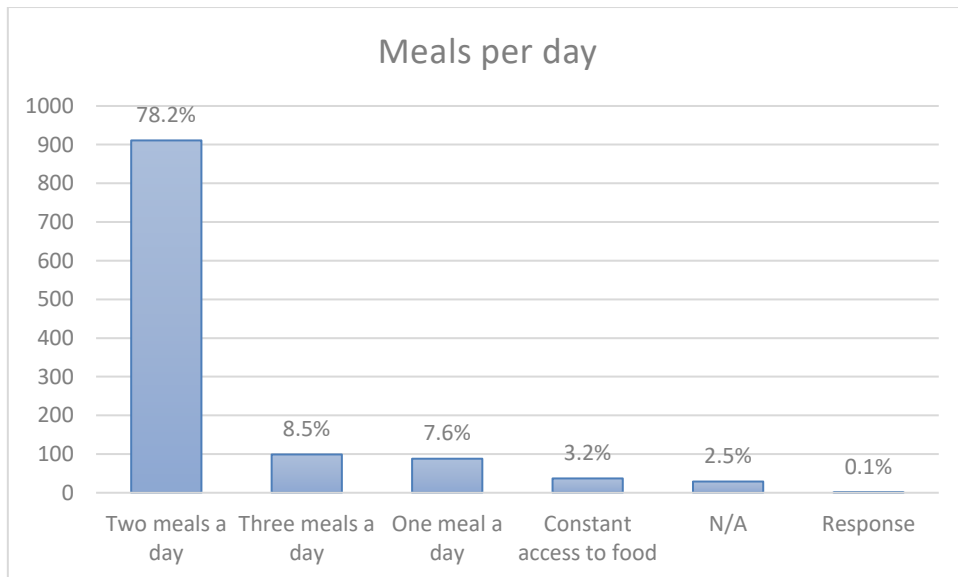

Figure 7: Number of meals given to Pointers included in the survey

When asked if they fed their dog with a raised bowl, most owners said "no" (63.3%, 738 of 1,165), followed by "yes – elevated food and water bowls" (16.7%, 195 of 1,165), and "yes – elevated food bowls" (15.5%, 180 of 1,165).
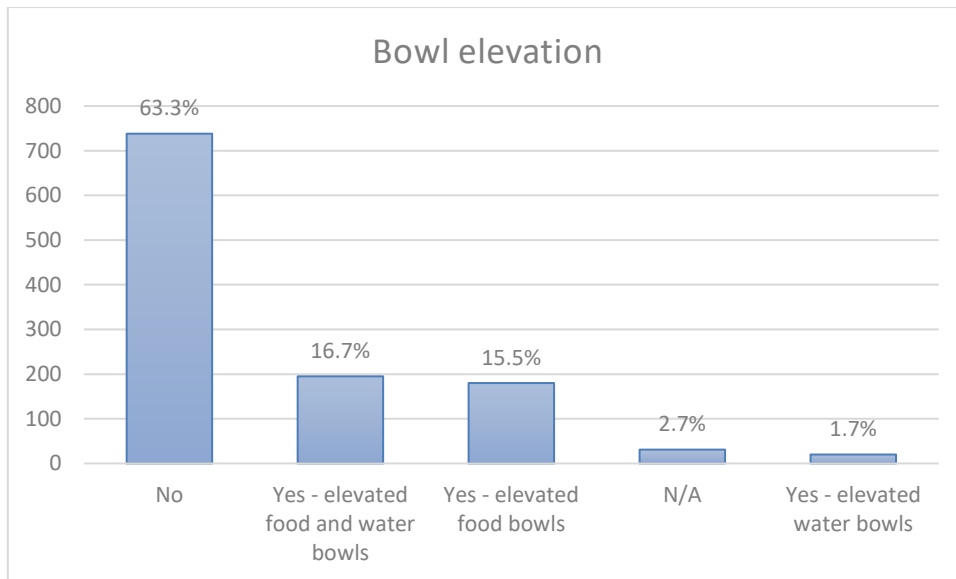
Figure 8: Elevation of food and water bowls provided to Pointers in the survey

Owners were also asked to respond how much activity their dog had during the week and at the weekend.

Weekday and weekend comparisons are given below:

Figure 9: Weekday and weekend activity for Pointers in the survey

Overall, when asked how active owners thought their dog was, the majority of people answered "moderately active" (52.2%, 599 of 1,148), followed by "highly active" (41.6%, 478 of 1,148) and then "not very active" (3.5%, 40 of 1,148).
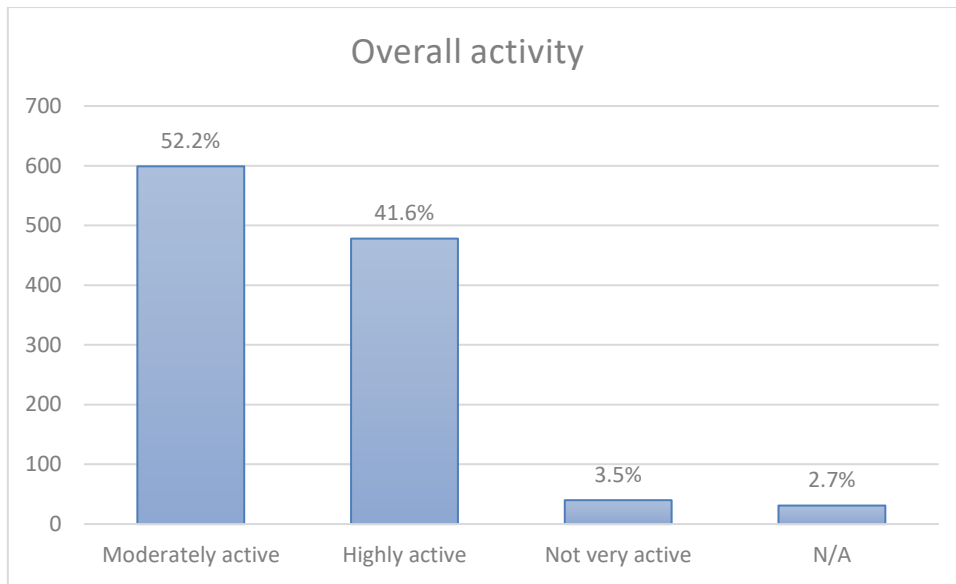
Figure 10: Overall activity of Pointers in the survey

Health

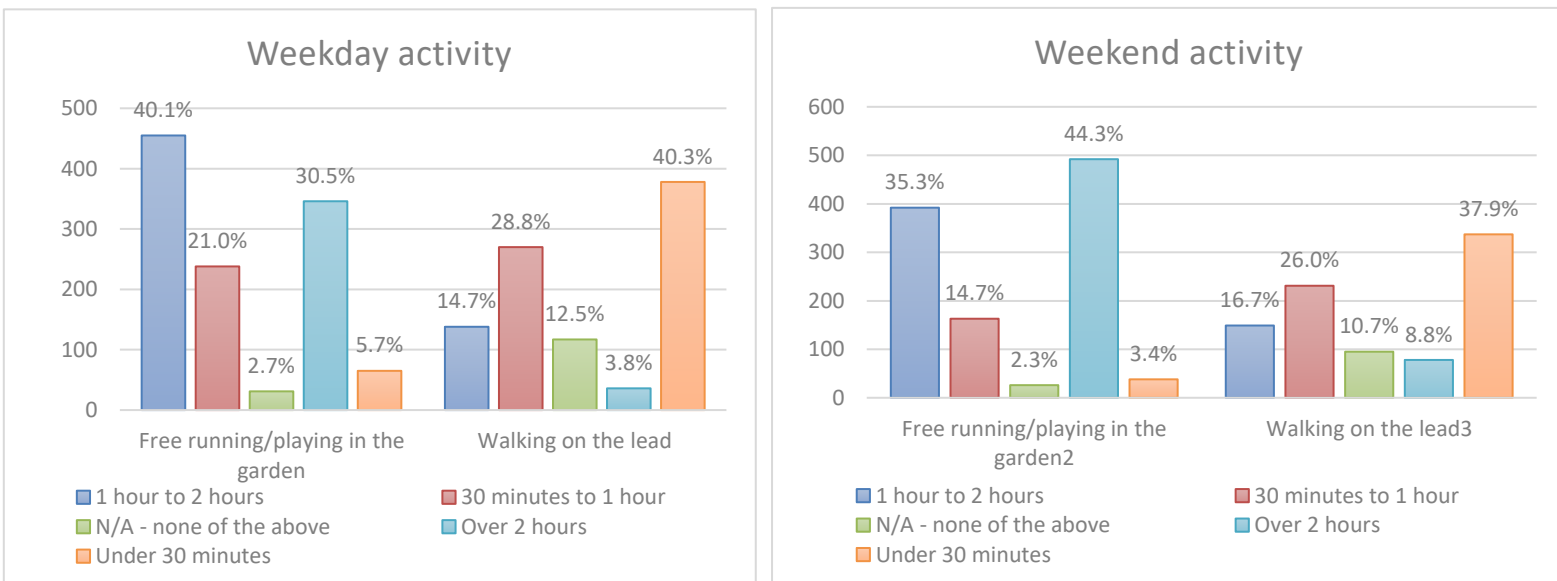The survey investigated the number of dogs affected by specific conditions within different categories: 'Behaviour', 'Cancer', 'Digestive', 'Ear', 'Eye', 'Heart', 'Hormonal', 'Immunological', 'Renal, 'Musculoskeletal, 'Neurological and/or Spinal', 'Reproductive', and 'Skin and/ or Coat'.

Within each of these categories, the respondents were given a choice of specific conditions, the choices of "not known" and "other" were also given.

Figure 11: Overall summary of Pointer conditions by category reported in the survey

The data collected from this survey 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 show more conditions reported per category than number of dogs in that category.

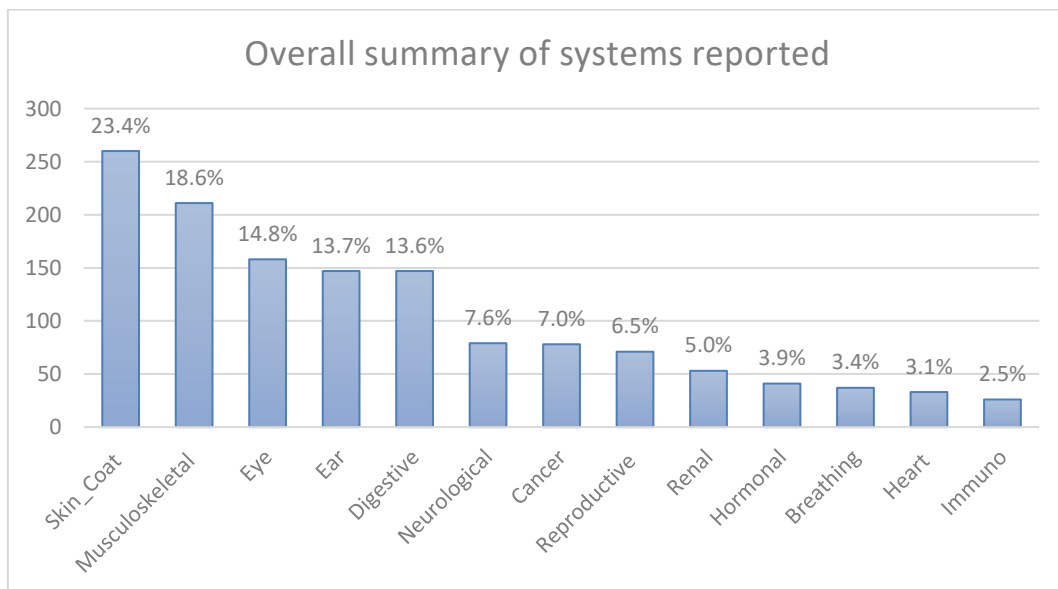The total number of specific conditions reported in this survey was 1,341. Out of the 1,341 specific conditions reported 23.4% were for 'Skin and/or Coat, 18.6% were for 'Musculoskeletal', and 14.8% were for 'Eye'. The results for each category are given in Table 4.

Table 4: Overall summary of Pointer conditions reported in the survey

Body system	Number of reports	Percentage
Skin and/or Coat	260	23.4%
Musculoskeletal	211	18.6%
Eye	158	14.8%
Ear	147	13.7%
Digestive	147	13.6%
Neurological	79	7.6%
Cancer	78	7.0%
Reproductive	71	6.5%
Renal	53	5.0%
Hormonal	41	3.9%
Breathing	37	3.4%
Heart	33	3.1%
Immunological	26	2.5%
TOTAL	**1,341**	

Skin and/or Coat Conditions

When asked if their dog has ever suffered from a skin and/ or coat condition(s), out of 1,109 responses, 260 (23.4%) answered "Yes" and 849 (76.6%) answered "No".

The median age that affected dogs started to experience the clinical signs associated with their first reported skin and/or coat condition(s) was two years of age (min: less than one year, max: 13 years).

The total number of individual skin and/ or coat conditions reported was 326. Of these, the most commonly reported condition was environmental allergies, followed by dermatitis, and unknown allergies. Table 5 shows the total number and percentage of dogs affected by each reported skin and/or coat condition in descending order.

Table 5: Number and percentage of Pointers affected by each specific skin and/or coat condition, as reported in the survey

Specific condition	Number affected	Percentage
Allergies (environmental e.g. dust, grass)	85	26.1%
Dermatitis (itchy skin condition)	49	15.0%
Allergies - unknown	44	13.5%
Allergies (dietary e.g. chicken, dairy)	36	11.0%
Lipoma (fatty lumps)	31	9.5%
Other (please specify)	25	7.7%
Hair loss (alopecia)	16	4.9%
Skin cysts	12	3.7%
Demodectic/sarcoptic mange (caused by parasitic mites)	7	2.1%
Not known	7	2.1%
Pyoderma (infection such as boils etc.)	7	2.1%
Pyotraumatic dermatitis (hot spot)	7	2.1%
TOTAL	**326**	

The most common answers to "other" for skin and/ or coat conditions not already listed in the survey were: leishmaniasis (n=3), and skin tags (n=2).

Some 343 treatment options were provided, with the most common being prescriptive medication (temporary), followed by change in diet, and supplements (e.g. Omega 3). A full breakdown is provided in the figure below.
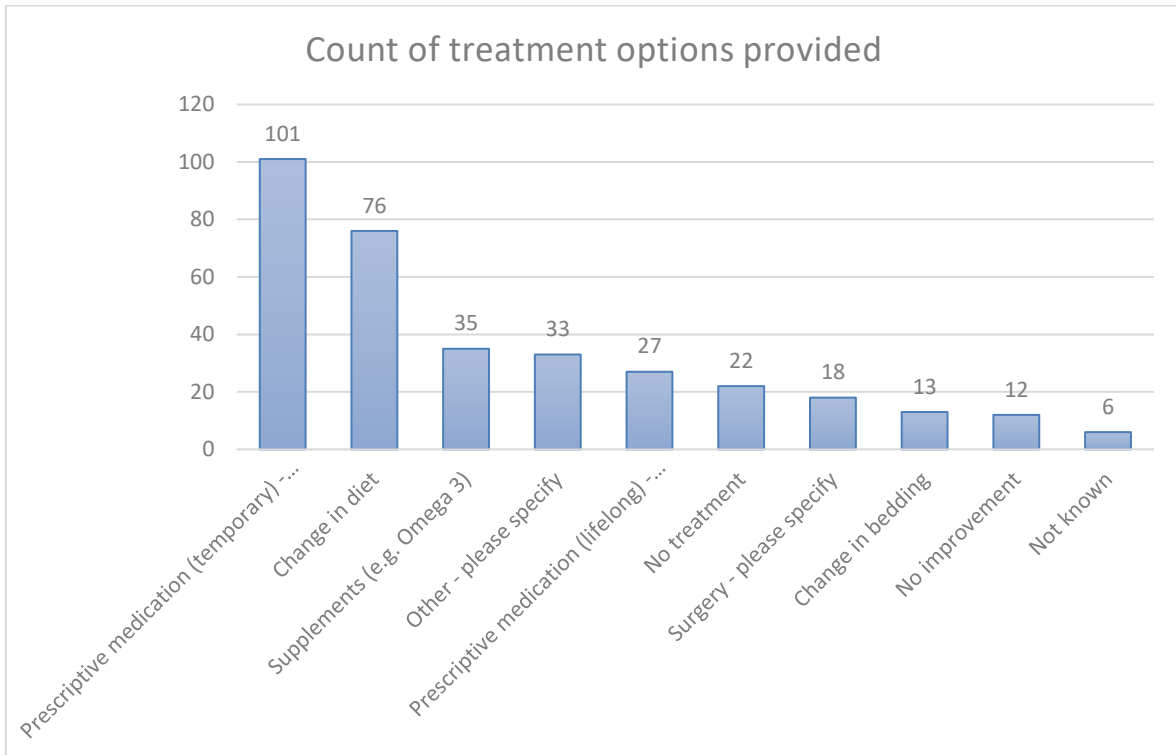

Figure 12: Count of treatment options reported for skin and/or coat disorders.

The top specific treatments were surgery (n=9), antihistamine (n=8), and Apoquel (n=5).

Muscle, Bone or Joint (Musculoskeletal) Conditions

When asked if their dog has ever suffered from a muscle, bone or joint condition(s), out of the 1,137 responses, 211 (18.6%) answered "Yes" and 926 (81.4%) answered "No".

The median age that affected dogs started to experience the clinical signs associated with their first muscle, bone or joint condition(s) was seven years of age (min: less than one year, max: 14 years).

The total number of individual muscle, bone or joint conditions reported was 271. Of these, the most commonly reported condition was arthritis, followed by "other", and lameness. Table 6 shows the total number and percentage of dogs affected by each reported muscle, bone or joint condition in descending order.

Table 6: Number and percentage of Pointers affected by each specific muscle, bone or joint condition, as reported in the survey

Specific condition	Number affected	Percentage
Arthritis	85	31.4%
Other (please specify)	57	21.0%
Lameness	51	18.8%
Not known	30	11.1%
Cranial cruciate ligament rupture (CCLR)	23	8.5%
Fracture	9	3.3%
Hip dysplasia	7	2.6%
Elbow dysplasia	4	1.5%
OCD (unknown)	4	1.5%
OCD of the shoulder	1	0.4%
TOTAL	**271**	

The most common answers to "other" for muscle, bone or joint conditions not already listed in the survey were: injury (n=9), unspecified (n=5), and lameness (n=4).

Owners were also asked to report whether they knew of any particular incident (e.g. a fall or injury) that preceded their dog's condition, of which of 192 answers, 63 (32.8%) answered "Yes" and 129 (67.2%) "No".

Some 367 treatment options were provided, with the most common being joint supplements, followed temporary prescriptive medication, and change in exercise routine. A full breakdown is provided in the figure below.
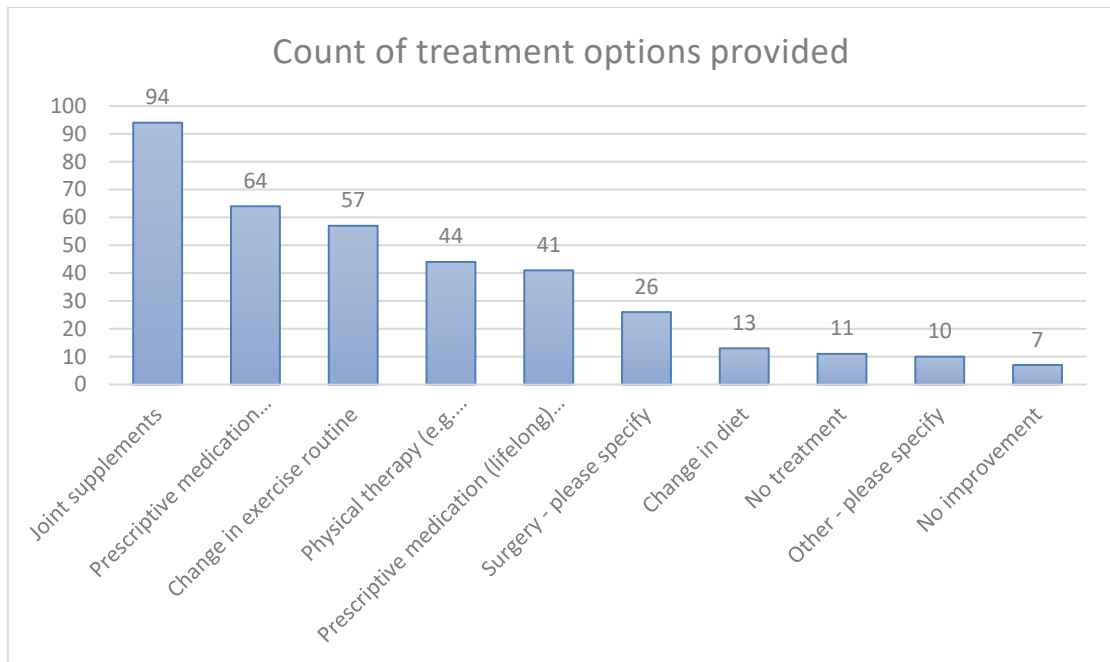
Figure 13: Count of treatment options reported for musculoskeletal disorders.

The top specific treatments were Metacam (n=13), physiotherapy (n=6), rest/ restricted/ altered exercise (n=6), Loxicom (n=5), and YuMove (n=5).

Eye Conditions

When asked if their dog has ever suffered from an eye condition(s), out of 1,065 responses, 158 (14.8%) answered "Yes" and 907 (85.2%) answered "No".

The median age that affected dogs started to experience the clinical signs associated with their first reported eye condition(s) was two years of age (min: less than one year, max: 15 years).

The total number of individual eye conditions reported was 164. Of these, the most commonly reported condition was conjunctivitis, followed by "other", and chronic discharge. Table 7 shows the total number and percentage of dogs affected by each reported eye condition in descending order.

Table 7: Number and percentage of Pointers affected by each specific eye condition, as reported in the survey

Specific condition	Number affected	Percentage
Conjunctivitis	98	59.8%
Other (please specify)	22	13.4%
Chronic discharge	9	5.5%
Not known	7	4.3%
Glaucoma	6	3.7%
Cataract	4	2.4%
Entropion (inward drooping of eyelid)	4	2.4%
Prolapsed gland (cherry eye)	4	2.4%
Complete blindness	2	1.2%
Corneal lipid deposition (fatty deposits in the eye)	2	1.2%
Keratoconjunctivitis sicca (dry eye)	2	1.2%
Corneal dystrophy	1	0.6%
Corneal ulcer	1	0.6%
Distichiasis (inverted eyelashes)	1	0.6%
Reduced vision	1	0.6%
TOTAL	**164**	

The most common answers to "other" for eye conditions not already listed in the survey were: blocked tear duct (n=3), and two responses for each of the following: nuclear sclerosis, slight discharge, and eyelid growth.

Some 87 treatment options were provided, with the most common being temporary prescriptive medication, surgery and no treatment. A full breakdown is provided in the figure below.
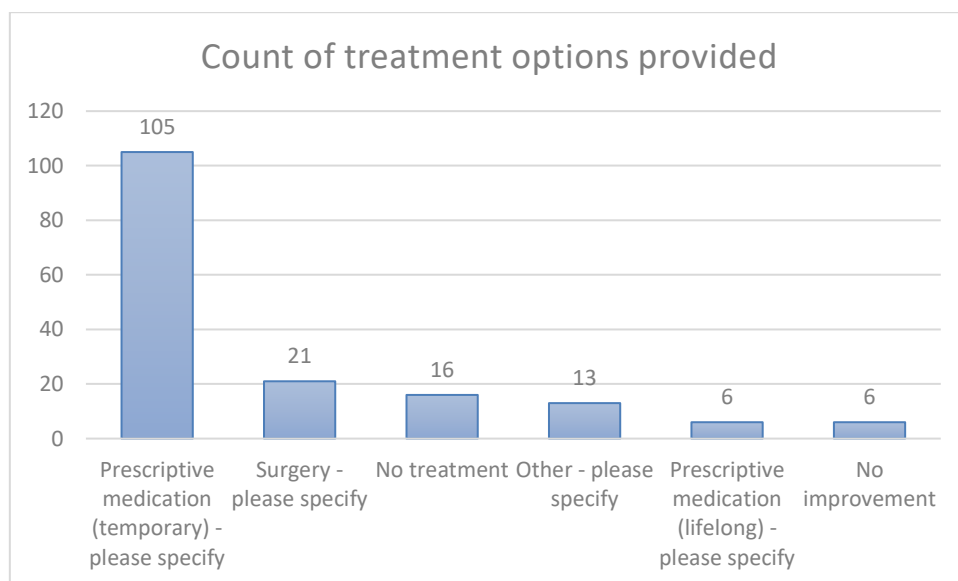

Figure 14: Count of treatment options reported for eye disorders.

The top specific treatments were eye drops (n=22), antibiotic drops/ ointments (n=7), and eye removal (enucleation) (n=7).

Ear Conditions

When asked if their dog has ever suffered from an ear condition(s), out of 1,070 responses, 147 (13.7%) answered "Yes" and 931 (86.4%) answered "No".

The median age that affected dogs started to experience the clinical signs associated with their first reported ear condition(s) was two years of age (min: less than one year, max: 12 years).

The total number of individual ear conditions reported was 173. Of these, the most commonly reported condition was infrequent ear infections, followed by excessive ear wax, and frequent ear infections. Table 8 shows the total number and percentage of dogs affected by each reported ear condition in descending order.

Table 8: Number and percentage of Pointers affected by each specific ear condition, as reported in the survey

Specific condition	Number affected	Percentage
Infrequent ear infections (e.g. one off)	53	30.6%
Excessive ear wax	38	22.0%
Frequent ear infections	35	20.2%
Otitis externa (inflammation of the external ear canal)	19	11.0%
Other (please specify)	12	6.9%
Otitis media (inflammation of the internal ear canal)	7	4.0%
Deafness	3	1.7%
Ear canal stenosis (narrowing of the ear canal)	3	1.7%
Not known	3	1.7%
TOTAL	**173**	

The most common answers to "other" for ear conditions not already listed in the survey were: mites (n=3), and yeast infection (n=2).

Some 162 treatment options were provided, with the most common being temporary prescriptive medication, "other", and change in diet. A full breakdown is provided in the figure below.
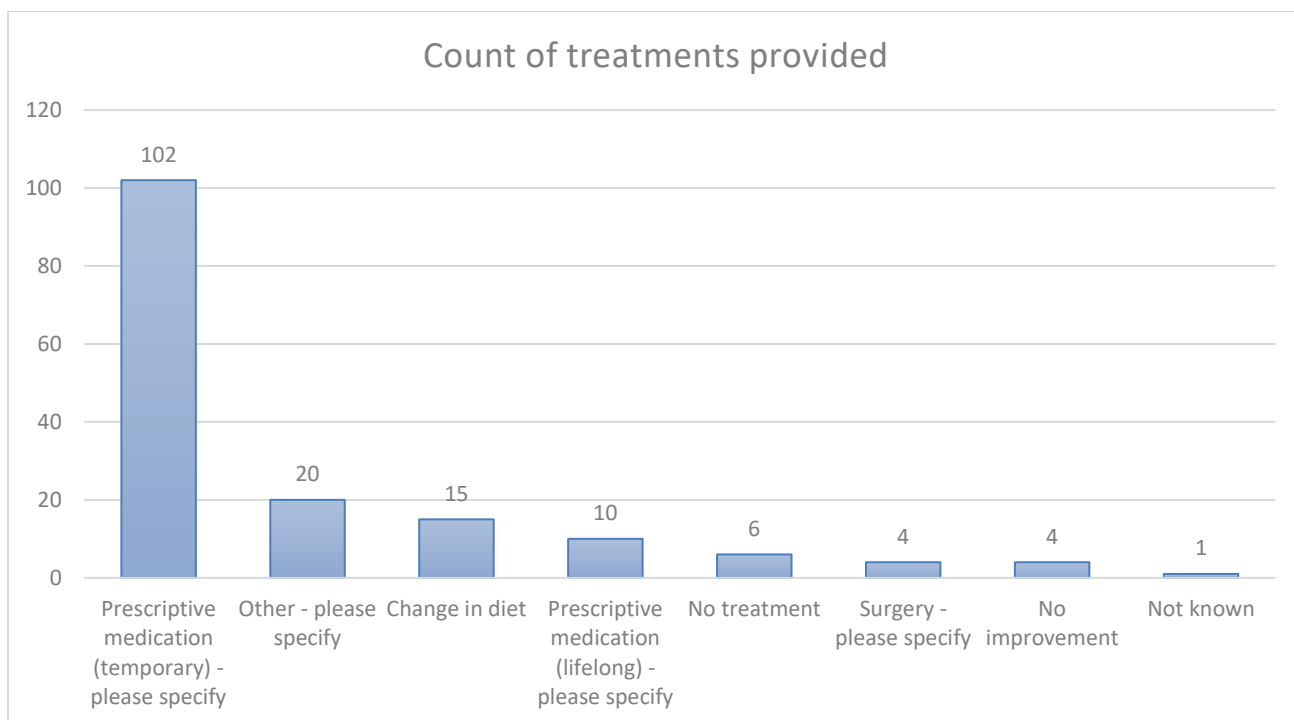
Figure 15: Count of treatment options reported for ear disorders.

The top specific treatments were cleaning drops/ solution (n=34), followed by cleaning/ washing (n=9), and antibiotics (n=7).

Digestive Conditions

When asked if their dog has ever suffered from a digestive condition(s), out of the 1,078 responses, 147 (13.6%) answered "Yes" and 931 (86.4%) answered "No".

The median age that affected dogs started to experience the clinical signs associated with their first reported digestive condition(s) was two years of age (min: less than one year, max: 15 years).

The total number of individual digestive conditions was 185. Of these, the most commonly reported condition was food allergies/ intolerance, chronic diarrhoea, and "other". Table 9 shows the total number and percentage of dogs affected by each reported digestive condition in descending order.

Table 9: Number and percentage of Pointers affected by each specific digestive condition, as reported in the survey

Specific condition	Number affected	Percentage
Food allergies/intolerance	33	17.8%
Chronic diarrhoea	29	15.7%
Other (please specify)	28	15.1%
Gastroenteritis (inflammation of gastrointestinal tract)	26	14.1%
Colitis (inflammation of colon lining)	16	8.6%
Impacted anal glands	12	6.5%
Not known	12	6.5%
Chronic vomiting	10	5.4%
Constipation	5	2.7%
Inflammatory bowel disease (IBD)	4	2.2%
Gastric dilatation volvulus (GDV)/bloat	3	1.6%
Megaoesophagus	3	1.6%
Pancreatitis (inflammation of pancreas)	3	1.6%
Liver disease	1	0.5%
TOTAL	**185**	

The most common answers to "other" for digestive conditions not already listed in the survey were: difficulty maintaining weight (n=4), unknown (n=3), and two responses each for: Giardia infection, morning vomiting/ acid reflux, sensitivity/ diarrhoea, and stomach ulcers.

Some 175 treatment options were provided, with the most common being change in diet, temporary prescriptive medicine and no treatment. A full breakdown is provided in the figure below.
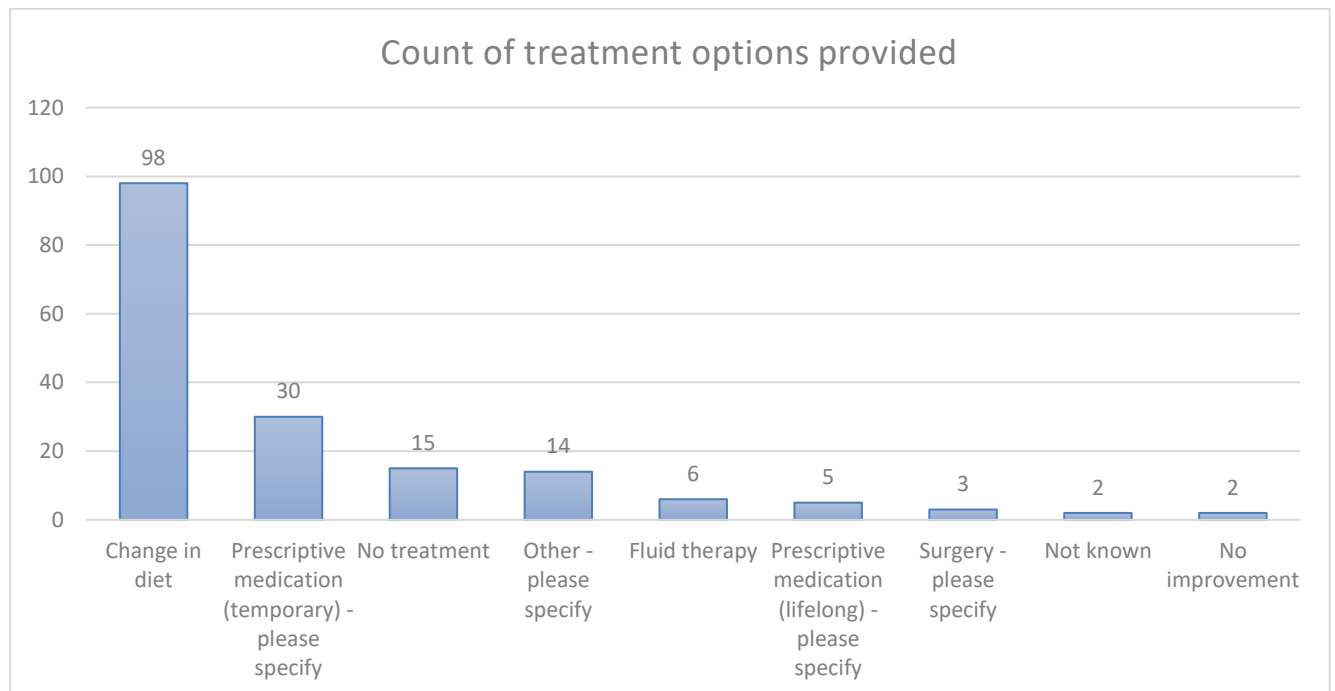

Figure 16: Count of treatment options reported for digestive disorders.

The top specific treatments were change in diet (n=27), probiotics (n=4), (unknown (n=3)), and antibiotics/ anti-inflammatories combination (n=2).

Neurological and/or Spinal Conditions

When asked their dog has ever suffered from a neurological and/or spinal condition(s), out of 1,046 responses, 79 (7.6%) answered "Yes" and 967 (92.4%) answered "No".

The median age that affected dogs started to experience the clinical signs associated with their neurological and/or spinal condition(s) was four years of age (min: less than one year, max: 13 years).

The total number of individual neurological and/or spinal conditions reported was 84. Of these, the most commonly reported condition was "other", followed by idiopathic epilepsy and seizures/ fitting. Table 10 shows the total number and percentage of dogs affected by each reported neurological and/or spinal condition in descending order.

Table 10: Number and percentage of Pointers affected by each specific neurological and/or spinal condition, as reported in the survey

Specific condition	Number affected	Percentage
Other (please specify)	20	23.8%
Epilepsy (idiopathic)	16	19.0%
Seizures/fitting	15	17.9%
Not known	11	13.1%
Spondylosis (bony spurs that form along the spine)	8	9.5%
Stroke	4	4.8%
Steroid-responsive meningitis-arteritis (SRMA)	3	3.6%
Degenerative myelopathy (DM)	2	2.4%
Epilepsy (cause known - please specify under 'Other')	2	2.4%
Intervertebral disc disease (IVDD)	1	1.2%
Paralysis	1	1.2%
Vestibular disease (disturbance of balance)	1	1.2%
TOTAL	**84**	

The most common answers to "other" for neurological and/or spinal conditions not already listed in the survey were: disc disease – unspecified (n=2).

Some 107 treatment options were provided, with the most common being lifelong prescriptive medicine, no treatment and temporary prescriptive medicine. A full breakdown is provided in the figure below.
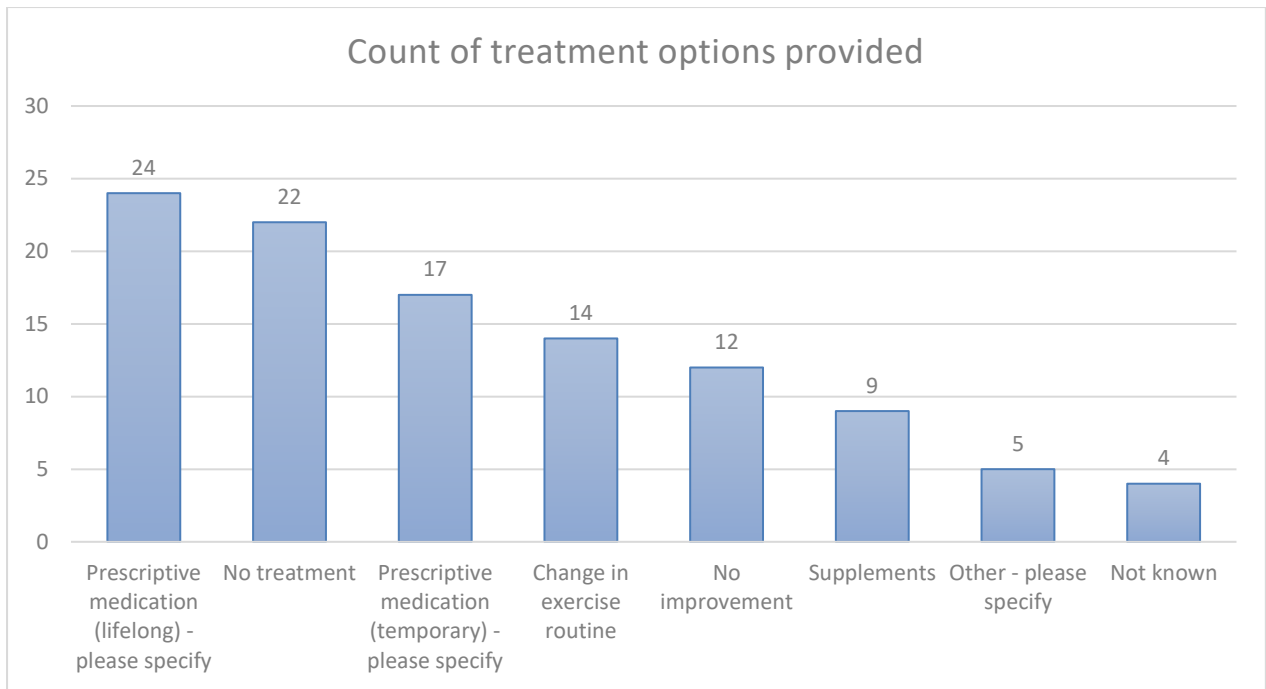
Figure 17: Count of treatment options reported for neurological and/ or spinal disorders.

The top specific treatments were euthanasia (n=4), steroids (n=4), epiphen (n=3), and none (n=3).

Cancer

When asked if any of their dogs have suffered from cancer, out of 1,117 responses, 78 (7.0%) answered "Yes" and 1,039 (93.0%) answered "No".

The median age that affected dogs started to experience the clinical signs associated with their cancerous condition(s) was nine years of age (min: less than one year, max: 14 years).

The total number of individual cancers reported was 84. Of these, the most commonly reported type of cancer was "other", liver tumour, and lymphoma. Table 11 shows the total number and percentage of dogs affected by each cancerous condition in descending order.

Table 11: Number and percentage of Pointers affected by each specific cancerous condition, as reported in the survey

Specific condition	Number affected	Percentage
Other (please specify)	20	23.8%
Liver tumour	9	10.7%
Lymphoma (lymph node tumour)	9	10.7%
Osteosarcoma (bone tumour)	9	10.7%
Splenic tumour	6	7.1%
Brain tumour	4	4.8%
Mammary tumour	4	4.8%
Mast cell tumour	4	4.8%
Kidney tumour	3	3.6%
Melanoma (skin tumour)	3	3.6%
Not known	3	3.6%
Testicular tumour	3	3.6%
Anal sac tumour	2	2.4%
Vascular/ blood tumour	2	2.4%
Histiocytoma (benign skin tumour)	1	1.2%
Prostate tumour	1	1.2%
Thyroid tumour	1	1.2%
TOTAL	**208**	

The most common answers to "other" for cancerous conditions not already listed in the survey were two cases for each of the following: acute myeloid leukaemia, bowel cancer, not specified, and spindle cell tumour.

Some 95 treatment options were provided, with the most common being no treatment, surgery (lump removal) and no improvement. A full breakdown is provided in the figure below.
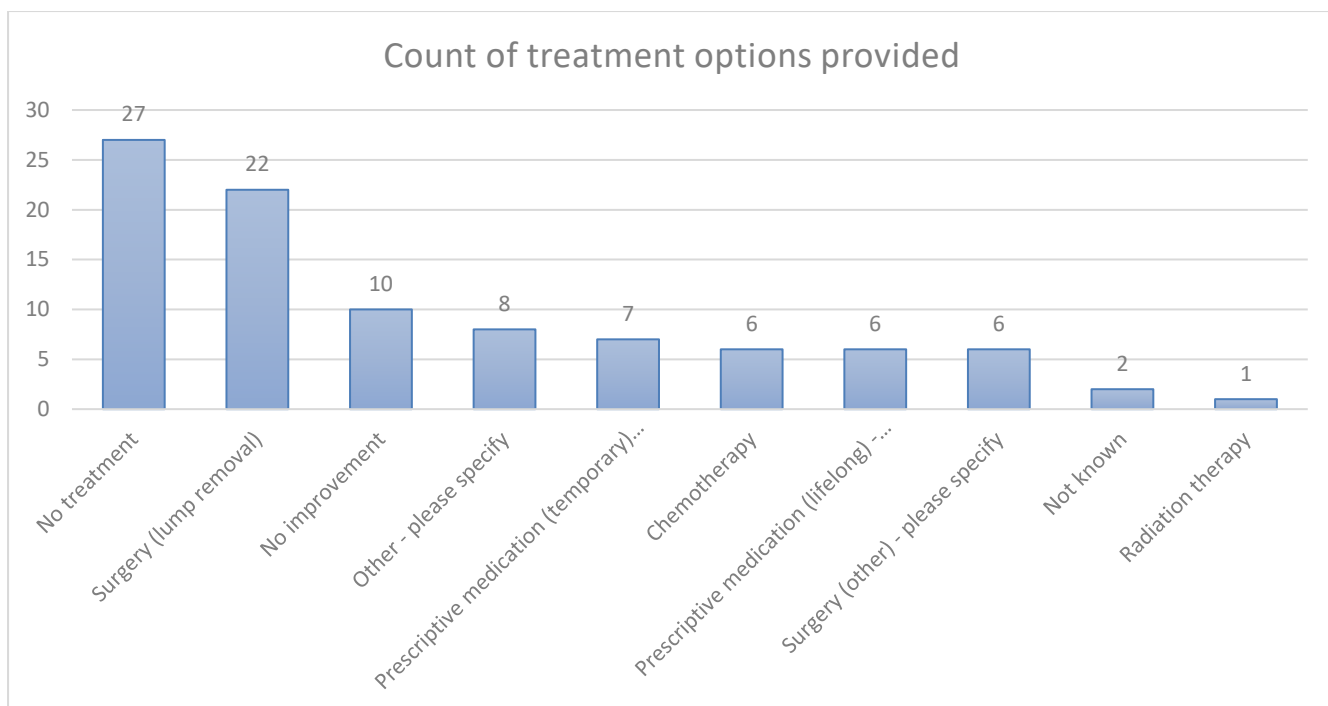
Figure 18: Count of treatment options reported for cancer disorders.

The top specific treatments were euthanasia (n=7), amputation of limb/ organ (n=3), and lump removal (n=3).

Reproductive Conditions

When asked if their dog has every suffered from a reproductive condition(s), out of 1,084 responses, 71 (6.5%) answered "Yes" and 1,013 (93.5%) answered "No".

The median age that affected dogs started to experience the clinical signs associated with their reproductive condition(s) was three years of age (min: less than one year, max: 12 years).

The total number of individual reproductive conditions reported was 73. Of these, 27.4% were for male conditions (20 out of 73), and 72.6% were for female conditions (53 out of 73).

Overall the most commonly reported reproductive condition across sexes was pseudopregnancy, followed by pyometra, cryptorchidism, and fertility problems. Table 12 shows the total number and percentage of dogs affected by each reported reproductive condition.

Table 12: Number and percentage of Pointers affected by each specific reproductive condition, as reported in the survey

	Specific condition	Number affected
Male conditions	Cryptorchidism (failure of testicle to descend)	8 (40.0%)
	Enlarged prostate	7 (35.0%)
	Other	3 (15.0%)
	Not known	2 (10.0%)
	Total	**20**
Female conditions	Pseudopregnancy (false pregnancy)	18 (34.0%)
	Pyometra (infection of the uterus)	13 (24.5%)
	Fertility problems	6 (11.3%)
	Dystocia (abnormal or difficult birth)	4 (7.5%)
	Other (please specify)	4 (7.5%)
	Follicular cysts	3 (5.7%)
	Irregular seasons	3 (5.7%)
	Mastitis (inflammation of the mammary gland)	2 (3.8%)
	Total	**53**
Total		**73**

The most common answers to "other" for reproductive conditions not already listed in the survey were two counts for each of the following: eclampsia, and failure to conceive.

Some 95 treatment options were provided, with the most common being spay, castration, and no treatment. A full breakdown is provided in the figure below.
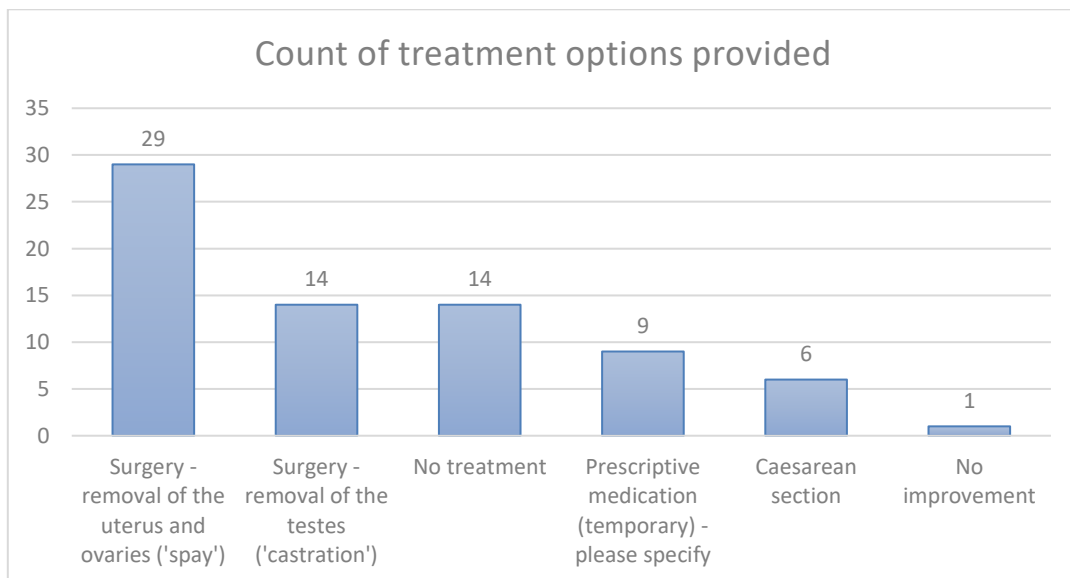

Figure 19: Count of treatment options reported for reproductive disorders

The top specific treatment was calcium drip (n=2).

Kidney and/or Bladder Conditions

When asked if their dog has ever suffered from a kidney and/or bladder condition(s), out of 1,050 responses, 53 (5.0%) answered "Yes" and 997 (95.0%) answered "No".

The median age that affected dogs started to experience the clinical signs associated with their first reported kidney and/or bladder condition(s) was eight years of age (min: less than one year, max: 14 years).

The total number of individual kidney and/or bladder conditions reported was 62. Of these, the most commonly reported condition was urinary incontinence, urinary tract infection (UTI), and "other". Table 13 shows the total number and percentage of dogs affected by each reported kidney and/or bladder condition in descending order.

Table 13: Number and percentage of Pointers affected by each specific kidney and/or bladder condition, as reported in the survey

Specific condition	Number affected	Percentage
Urinary incontinence	28	45.2%
Urinary tract infection (UTI)	16	25.8%
Other (please specify)	9	14.5%
Cystinuria (buildup of cystine in the kidneys/bladder)	3	4.8%
Kidney failure	3	4.8%
Not known	2	3.2%
Urolithiasis ("stones" in the bladder/urinary tract)	1	1.6%
TOTAL	**176**	

The most common answers to "other" for kidney and/or bladder conditions not already listed in the survey were: not known (n=2), and urinary stones – struvite (n=2).

Some 62 treatment options were provided, with the most common being temporary prescriptive medicine, lifelong prescriptive medicine, and change in diet. A full breakdown is provided in the figure below.
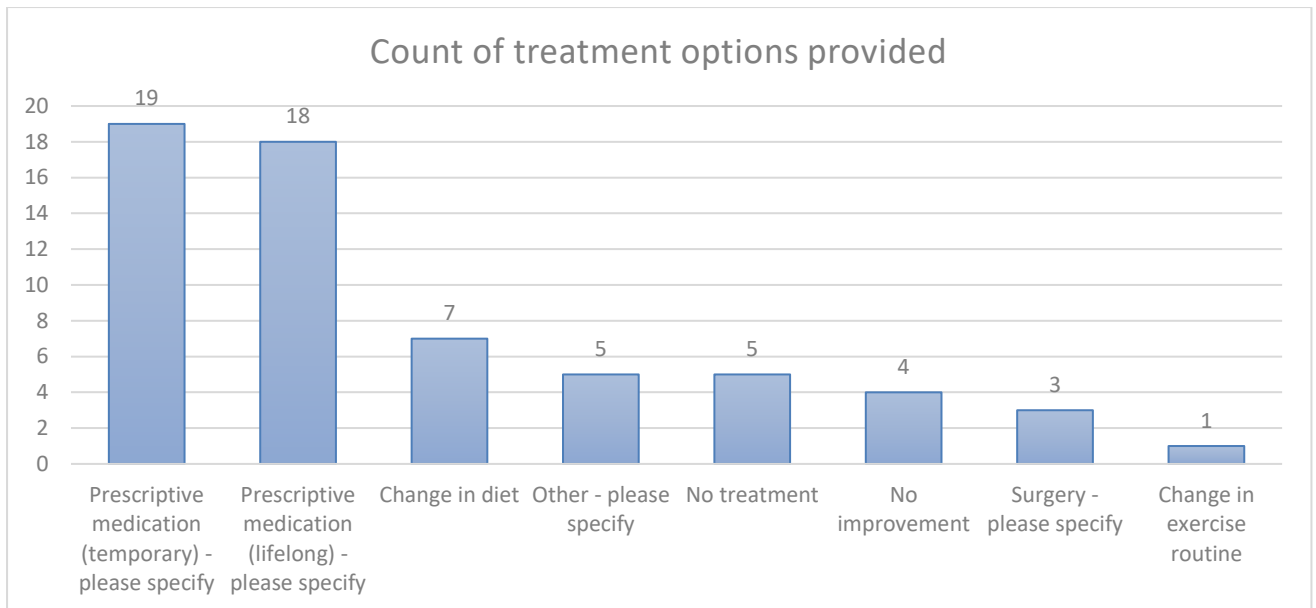
Figure 20: Count of treatment options reported for kidney and/ or bladder disorders

The top specific treatments were antibiotics (n=9), Propalin (n=5), Incurin (n=3), and not known (n=3).

Hormonal Conditions

When asked if any of their dogs have suffered from a hormonal condition(s), out of 1,062 responses, 41 (3.9%) answered "Yes" and 1,021 (96.1%) answered "No".

The median age that affected dogs started to experience the clinical signs associated with their hormonal condition(s) was two years six months of age (min: one year, max: 11 years).

The total number of individual hormonal conditions reported 35. Of these, the most commonly reported condition was "other", followed by Addison's disease, and reproductive hormone disorder. Table 14 shows the total number and percentage of dogs affected by each reported hormonal condition in descending order.

Table 14: Number and percentage of Pointers affected by each specific hormonal condition, as reported in the survey

Specific condition	Number affected	Percentage
Other (please specify)	13	37.1%
Hypoadrenocorticism (Addison's disease)	7	20.0%
Reproductive hormone disorder	7	20.0%
Not known	4	11.4%
Hypothyroidism (underactive thyroid)	2	5.7%
Hyperadrenocorticism (Cushing's disease)	1	2.9%
Hyperthyroidism (overactive thyroid)	1	2.9%
TOTAL	61	

The most common answers to "other" for hormonal condition not already listed in the survey was: pseudopregnancy (n=8).

Some 34 treatment options were provided, with the most common being lifelong prescriptive medicine, temporary prescriptive medicine, and no treatment. A full breakdown is provided in the figure below.
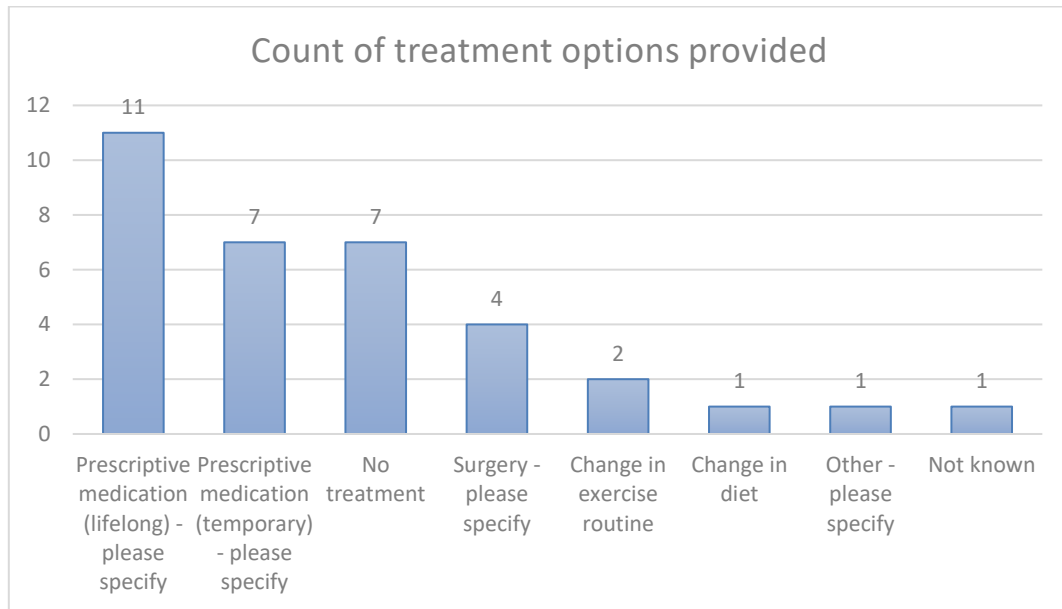

Figure 21: Count of treatment options reported for hormonal disorders

The top specific treatment was Galastop (n=4), neuter/ spay (n=4) and a combination of prednisolone and zycortal (n=3).

Breathing Conditions

When asked if their dog has ever suffered from a breathing condition(s), out of 1,078 responses, 37 (3.4%) answered "Yes" and 1,041 (96.6%) answered "No".

The median age that affected dogs started to experience the clinical signs associated with their heart condition(s) was nine years of age (min: one year, max: 15 years).

The total number of individual heart conditions reported was 45. Of these, the most commonly reported condition was laboured breathing, "other", and laryngeal paralysis. Table 15 shows the total number and percentage of dogs affected by each reported heart condition in descending order.

Table 15: Number and percentage of Pointers affected by each specific breathing condition, as reported in the survey

Specific condition	Number affected	Percentage
Laboured breathing	15	33.3%
Other (please specify)	10	22.2%
Laryngeal paralysis	9	20.0%
Not known	5	11.1%
Kennel cough	3	6.7%
Cough	1	2.2%
Pneumonia	1	2.2%
Rhinitis (nose infection)	1	2.2%
TOTAL	**45**	

The answers to "other" for breathing conditions not already listed in the survey were one for each of the following: blade of grass caught that caused breathing/ coughing, developed during the night before last day of life, green discharge and swollen nose, Leishmaniasis, Lungworm, megaoesophagus, heat distress, respiratory infection – unspecified, snorting, and tracheotomy.

Some 46 treatment options were provided, with the most common being no treatment, change in exercise routine, and temporary prescriptive medicine. A full breakdown is provided in the figure below.
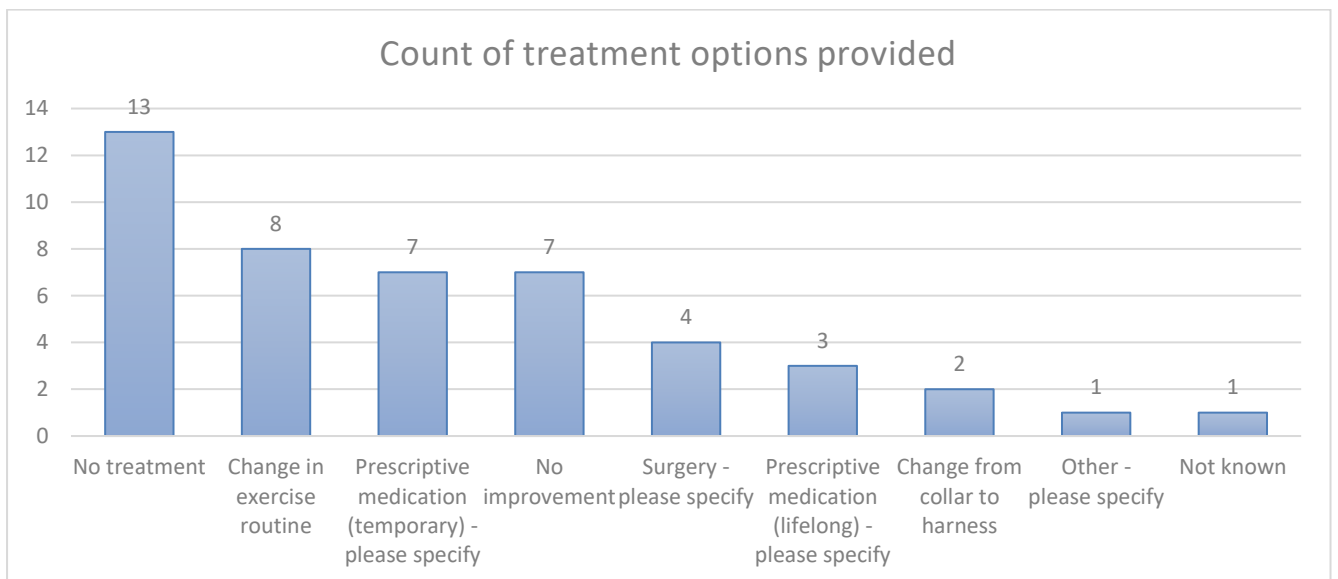

Figure 22: Count of treatment options reported for breathing disorders

The top specific treatment was antibiotics (n=2).

Heart Conditions

When asked if their dog has ever suffered from a heart condition(s), out of 1,062 responses, 33 (3.1%) answered "Yes" and 1,029 (96.9%) answered "No".

The median age that affected dogs started to experience the clinical signs associated with their heart condition(s) was five years of age (min: less than one year, max: 14 years).

The total number of individual heart conditions reported was 36. Of these, the most commonly reported condition was heart murmur, followed by irregular heart rate and/or rhythm and dilated cardiomyopathy (DCM). Table 16 shows the total number and percentage of dogs affected by each reported heart condition in descending order.

Table 16: Number and percentage of Pointers affected by each specific heart condition, as reported in the survey

Specific condition	Number affected	Percentage
Heart murmur	21	58.3%
Irregular heart rate and/or rhythm	5	13.9%
Dilated cardiomyopathy (DCM)	4	11.1%
Other (please specify)	2	5.6%
Aortic/subaortic stenosis	1	2.8%
Not known	1	2.8%
Pulmonic stenosis	1	2.8%
Congestive heart failure	1	2.8%
TOTAL	**36**	

The answers to "other" for heart conditions not already listed in the survey were: not specified (n=2), and one case each of the following: secondary to Addison's, fluid around the heart, and underwent valvoplasty as a puppy.

Some 35 treatment options were provided, with the most common being no treatment. A full breakdown is provided in the figure below.
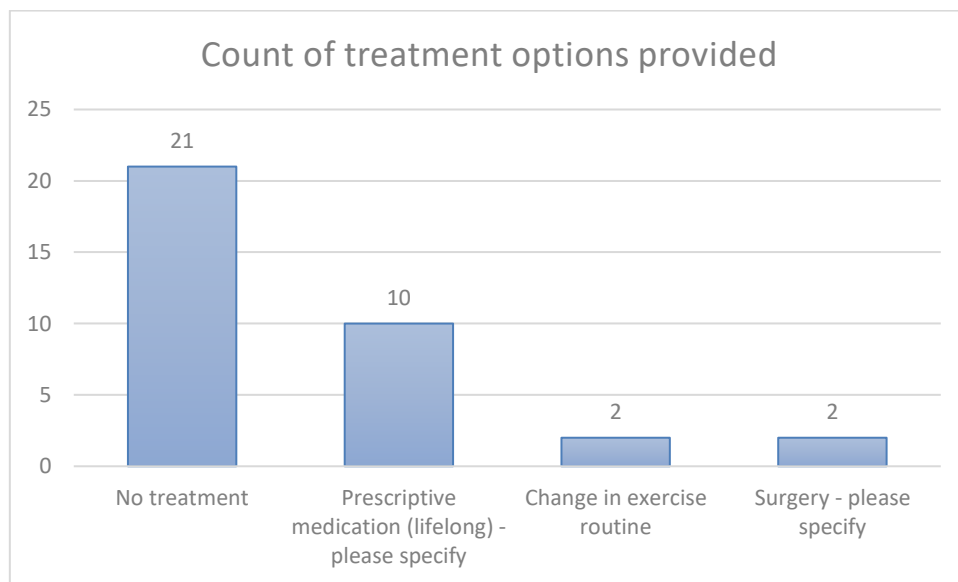

Figure 23: Count of treatment options reported for immunological disorders

Immunological Conditions

When asked if their dog has ever suffered from an immunological condition(s), out of 1,053 responses, 26 (2.5%) answered "Yes" and 1,027 (97.5%) answered "No".

The median age that affected dogs started to experience the clinical signs associated with their immunological condition(s) was four years of age (min: less than one year, max: nine years).

The total number of individual immunological conditions reported was 32. Of these, the most commonly reported condition was "other", followed by autoimmune haemolytic anaemia and immune-mediated arthritis. Table 17 shows the total number and percentage of dogs affected by each reported immunological condition in descending order.

Table 17: Number and percentage of Pointers affected by each specific immunological condition, as reported in the survey

Specific condition	Number affected	Percentage
Other (please specify)	14	43.8%
Autoimmune haemolytic anaemia (destruction of blood cells)	6	18.8%
Immune-related arthritis (polyarthritis)	5	15.6%
Immune-mediated thrombocytopenia (destruction of platelets)	2	6.3%
Masticatory myositis (swelling of muscles used to chew)	2	6.3%
Not known	2	6.3%
Myasthaenia gravis (causes muscle weakness)	1	3.1%
TOTAL	**32**	

The answers to "other" for immunological conditions not already listed in the survey were: Addison's disease (n=4), meningitis (n=2), and one report for each of the following: dry eye, immune-mediated lymphadenitis, Leishmaniasis, mass of cells pressing on spine, megaoesophagus, meningitis/ nails breaking and falling off.

Some 32 treatment options were provided, with the most common being temporary prescriptive medicine, lifelong prescriptive medicine, and "other". A full breakdown is provided in the figure below.
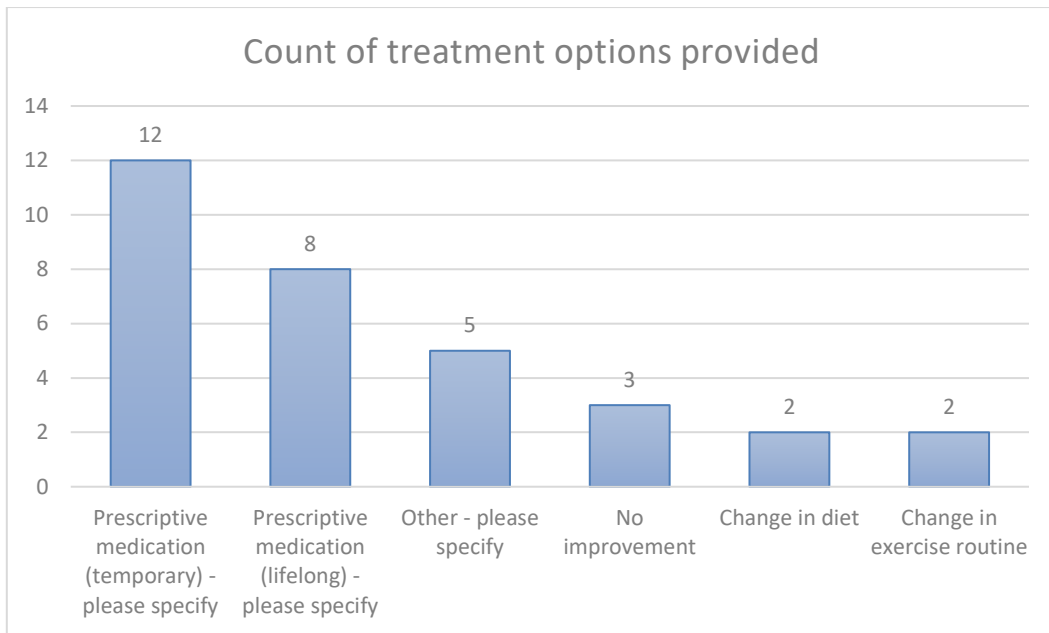
Figure 24: Count of treatment options reported for cancer disorders

The top specific treatment were steroids (n=4), prednisolone (n=3), a combination of steroids/ anti-inflammatories/ antibiotics/ vitamin B/ omega 3 (n=2), and a combination of Zycortal and steroids.

Additional Conditions not listed in survey

The respondents were provided with the opportunity to note any conditions not already covered by the previous questions. The conditions listed are shown in the table on the next page.

Table 18: Number of Pointers affected by "other" conditions, as reported in the survey

Condition	Count	Condition	Count
Anal gland infection/ impaction	6	Haemangiosarcoma	1
Lipoma	5	Elevated liver enzymes	1
Pyometra	3	High cholesterol	1
Unknown	3	Yeast infection	1
Epilepsy	3	Hip dysplasia	1
Lump	3	Poor teeth	1
Urinary incontinence	2	Idiopathic epilepsy	1
Sensitive stomach	2	Prostate infection	1
Addison's disease	2	Chronic ulcerative paradental stomatitis (CUPS)	1
Dementia	2	Allergic reaction - unknown	1
Stroke	2	Leishmaniasis	1
Kennel Cough	2	Raised protein levels	1
Wart	2	Allergic reaction - to sutures following surgery	1
Liver tumour	2	Choroidal melanoma	1
Not specified	2	Cushing's syndrome	1
Prostatism	1	Shoulder lump	1
Allergic reaction - drug	1	Long hair	1
Skin tag	1	Spinal meningitis	1
Eye ulcer	1	Cysts	1
Episodes of shaking	1	Toe blister	1
Fainting	1	Megaoesophagus secondary to myasthenia gravis	1
Rash	1	Tooth loss	1
Fitting/ seizure	1	Nasal lesion	1
Tonsilitis	1	Umbilical hernia/ vaginitis	1
Food lesion	1	Arthritis	1
Vestibular syndrome	1	Unknown	1
Gastric dilatation volvulus/ bloat	1	Ongoing	1
Poor wound recovery	1	Urinary incontinence - age related	1
Giardia infection	1	Overshot jaw	1
Pyrexia	1	Allergic reaction - food	1
Gingivitis	1	Perineal hernia	1
Sepsis	1	Persistent nose infection	1
Grass seed	1	Pink skin	1
Difficult to feed	1	Umbilical hernia	1
Growth - sphincter	1		

Death reports

When asked if they were reporting for a dog that has sadly passed away, out of 1,058 responses, 140 (13.2%) answered "Yes", and 918 (86.8%) answered "No".

The median age at death was 11 years and seven months (min = one year eight months, max = 16 years and two months).

Of 136 reported causes of death by organ system or category, the most frequently reported was cancerous, "other", and neurological and/ or spinal. Figure x shows the total number and percentage of causes of death by organ system or category in descending order.
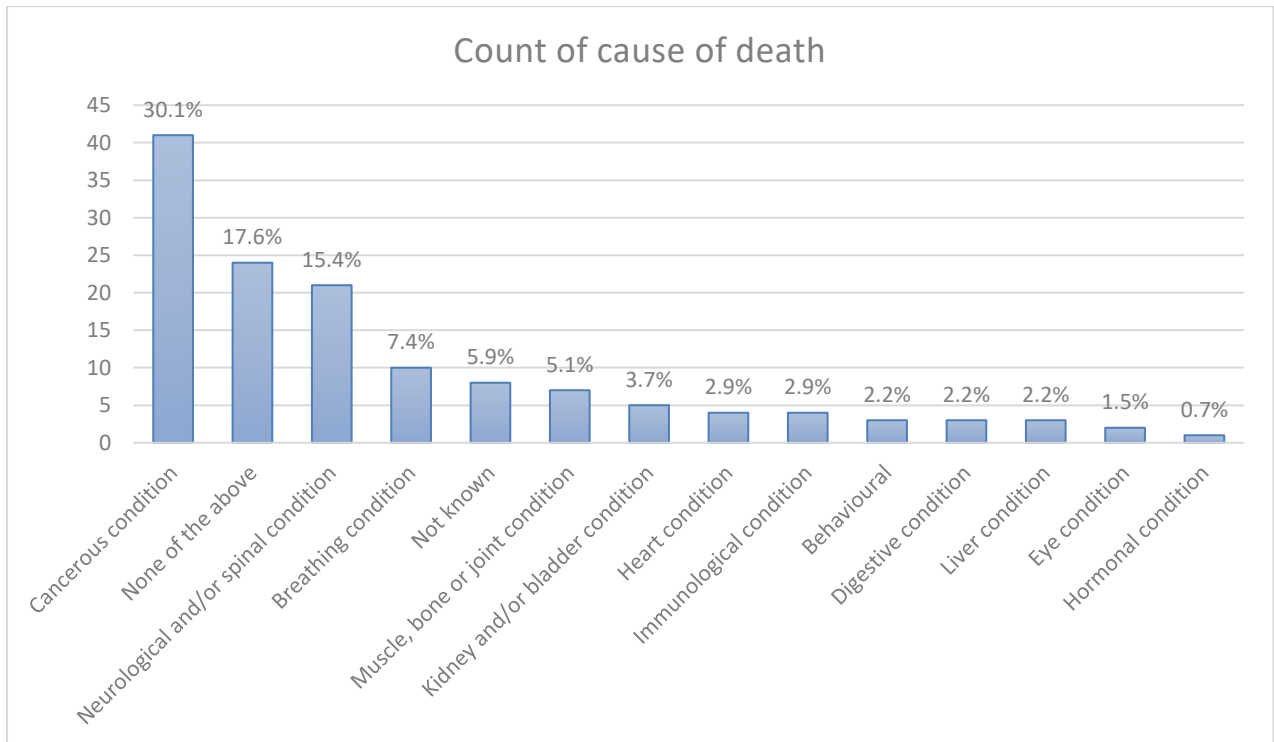

Figure 25: Count of causes of death, as reported in the survey

The most common answers to "other" were: old age (n=7), stroke (n=5), old age – combination (n=4) and loss of mobility (n=2).