Data Report:
HCA Havanese Health 2004 Survey

A Survey of the Health of Havanese Dogs in 2004 By the Havanese Club of America (HCA)

Sponsored by HCA Health Committee:
Joanne Baldwin DVM, Chair - Mary Cane - Joan Little -
Roberta Lowry - Margie Staniszeski

Jane Ruthford, Project Leader

Using SurveySuite's service on the internet's World Wide Web,
anonymous owner input for pet breeding and show dogs was received
from the USA as well as many other parts of the world.

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Acknowledgements

First of all we want to thank the <u>Havanese Owners</u> who took the time and make the effort to enter data on 756 Havanese.

We also wish to thank other individuals who worked on the following Survey tasks:

Survey Questions Writers, Editors, and Publisher	Jane Ruthford Joanne Baldwin, DVM Cherie Belcher
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HCA Havanese Health 2004 Survey

"An Overview"

Last year at the 2003 Annual Meeting of HCA, the membership voted to have the club develop and conduct a survey to determine the current health and welfare of Havanese. The HCA Health Committee collected information through an anonymous internet Survey available world wide. All Havanese owners were encouraged to participate by answering questions on the internet at the SurveySuite website. The answers for each dog were recorded on a SurveySuite computer at the University of Virginia. At the end of the survey, the records were downloaded into an ACCESS database by HCA and analyzed and summarized for this report.

The Survey started in March and concluded at the end of May 2004. In a sense, this Survey is a 'group snapshot of 756 dogs' taken over those two months. 90% of the dogs in the snapshot came into their household as puppies; 96% are owned by the person filling out the Survey; 89% are groomed by the person filling out the Survey. The surveyed dogs are well known by the person answering the Survey. 80% of the dogs surveyed are AKC registered. 20% of the dogs in the Survey are registered in kennel clubs other than the AKC; international dogs are represented in the Survey population.

After many hours of data analysis and consistency checks, the data analysis team is of the opinion that the data the Survey participants provided is consistent with the participants doing their best to accurately represent their dogs.

The Survey consists of two primary areas of interest. The first area is general questions about their Havanese and how they interact with their families. It includes personality, potty training, vaccination, height and weight and other areas to determine the general well being. The second area is focused on specific health issues and testing that is organized by the dog's major body systems.

HCA Havanese Health 2004 Survey

"An Orientation To Reading The Data Report"

Because looking a report of this size filled with numbers and data is somewhat like reading the phone book—lots of facts with no plot—we make the following suggestion if you are going to read the report linearly, from the beginning to the end. ***As you look at the data, imagine that you are a veterinary professional getting to know the Havanese Breed for the first time.***

First, you are given snapshots of Havanese dogs, and then you observe their general behavior from a distance. As you become more familiar with Havanese, you progress to learning about specific issues. Among these specific issues are Havanese health and medical data. These are presented by categories much as they were in the Survey, generally by the dog's bodily system such as liver or skin.

Looking at problems in our breed, even those problems that show up in only a few dogs, provides a rich source of information. The Havanese owners who reported problems, especially those diagnosed by veterinarians, and those owners who tested for problems and found none are both valuable contributors to our knowledge of our breed.

We should not overlook the problems that are small in number in Havanese, and nor should we discount the problems. These problems can point to where there are weaknesses in our Havanese. We need to watch for the problems by testing, just as we watch to see if any car we start to drive has working brakes. We need to make wise breeding and buying choices, just as we would chose to only buy a new car that had working brakes. The small numbers of new cars that are sold without working brakes does not lessen the importance of the buyer checking out the brakes before purchase. In an analogous way, breeders should look for health problems in the dogs that they are using for breeding.

HCA Havanese Health 2004 Survey

"An Orientation To Reading The Data Report," continued.

If we as readers are looking for conclusions in this report, remember, this report is just 'Chapter One' of what could be written. We should be careful not to ask more of this report than it can tell us. The information came to us from the owners of a non-random selection of dogs, and the report is only as good as the information submitted in the survey. Because the survey is anonymous, input data can not be checked and confirmed.

Even without data that can be confirmed, the survey contains much information about a large group of Havanese. This is the Survey's greatest strength, especially since the Survey information is considered to be of high quality within the limits of having data that is owner provided and not randomly sampled. After doing consistency checks and analysis, the opinion of the data analysis team is that the data the survey respondents provided are consistent with the respondents best effort to accurately represent their dogs. Using the CERF Research Report for 2003 from Purdue on Havanese, their results and the HCA 2004 Survey data can be compared. However, the HCA Survey data on eyes is from more than one year of CERF reports, so an <u>exact</u> comparison between the two can not be made.

Havanese Dogs With "Problems in Lens" According to <u>Canine Eye Registration Foundation</u> (CERF), Purdue University, 2003				
# of Dogs with **"Problem in Lens"** (includes cataracts, all kinds and sizes, and lens luxation or slippage)	% of Dogs Examined		# of Dogs	% of Same Gender of Dogs Examined
CERF 114	10% Or (1dog out of 10)	Male	36	10%
		Female	76	11%
		Unknown gender	2	6%

Havanese Dogs With "Problem in Lens," According to <u>HCA 2004 Health Survey</u> Owner Submitted Reports				
# of Dogs with **"Problem in Lens"** (includes cataracts, all kinds and sizes, and lens luxation or slippage)	% of Dogs Examined		# of Dogs	% of Same Gender of Dogs Examined
55	11% Or (1dog out of 9)	Male	24	12%
		Female	31	10%
		Unknown gender	0	0%

Complete Tables showing the responsese to questions about eyes can be found in the "Eye" section of this report.

HCA Havanese Health 2004 Survey

"An Orientation To Reading The Data Report," continued.

Another important point about looking at what might be considered a small number of dogs with a problem, for example, in the Survey dogs 11% of the dogs examined by ophthalmologists were reported to have a "problem in lens." The 11% result may seem like a small number to some, but remember, that is <u>one</u> Havanese out of every <u>nine</u>.

A frequently voiced opinion when apparently small numbers of problems are found in a bodily system is that the testing that is being done is successfully influencing breeding decisions and therefore is reducing incidence of the problem. This Survey alone, however, is insufficient to support a definitive conclusion to that effect. It is only a snapshot of one moment in time and therefore can not measure the affect of decisions, such as breeding decisions that take place over years of time.

Future 'chapters' on the Health of Havanese could include:
- Surveys in future years, correlated over time.
- Further education of breeders and the measurement of its effectiveness.
- Research into possible causes of problems (cause and effect tests).

HCA Havanese Health 2004 Survey

The Havanese Survey is like a 'group snapshot' taken in 2004 that includes 756 dogs.

Individual 'snapshots' of specific topics include smaller numbers of dogs ranging from 754 answering the first question to:

Groups of about 730 answering questions in the Personality section.

Snapshot size ranges groups of about 730 answering questions in the Personality section,

To small groups such as 56 dogs reporting allergies diagnosed by a veterinarian.

HCA Havanese Health 2004 Survey

Tally Precision

In presenting the Survey information about the dogs, numbers were rounded to the nearest whole number after calculating a percentage. Sometimes this practice resulted in displaying parts, that when added together equal 99% instead of 100%.

In other instances tallies may appear to be "off" by one or two dogs. This happens when there are inconsistent answers between several questions on the same topic. Sometimes data records with inconsistencies were included in the tally; other times the data records were excluded.

For example, in the data on <u>neutering</u>, a few participants responded that their dog had not been neutered, then gave the age at which the dog was neutered. In this situation it was assumed that the dog was neutered and was therefore counted in the number of neutered dogs.

Other participants omitted answering the question of what sex the dog was, but said it was neutered. In this case, the record was omitted from the count of neutered dogs because it was unclear whether to put the dog in with females or males. They were listed as no gender recorded.
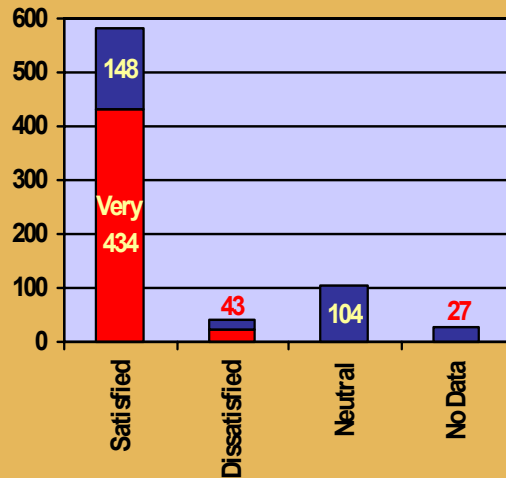
The number of inconsistent records for any given topic typically was less than five. (See "Data Collection Overview" in Part Five for further explanation of the data analysis.)
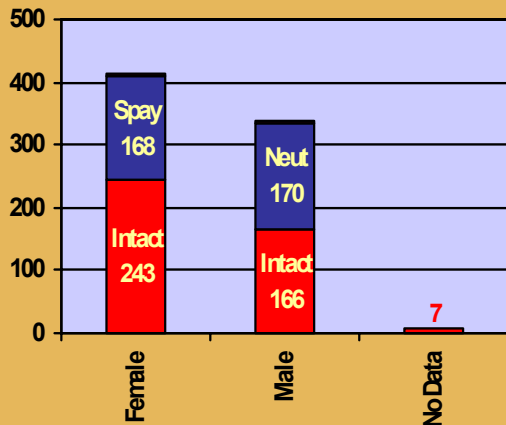
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Survey Satisfaction

(Bar chart)
- Satisfied: Very 434, 148
- Dissatisfied: 43
- Neutral: 104
- No Data: 27

Total Participants by Gender

(Bar chart)
- Female: Intact 243, Spay 168
- Male: Intact 166, Neut 170
- No Data: 7

Overview:

At the 2003 Annual Meeting, the HCA membership voted to conduct a survey to determine the current health and welfare of our breed. The Health Committee collected information through an anonymous internet Survey by utilizing a SurveySuite website. This executive summary was specifically prepared for presentation to the membership at the 2004 Annual Meeting. Detailed analysis and results will be available on the HCA website.

The Survey began in March 2004 and ended in May 2004. It consisted of two primary areas of interest. The first area included general questions about our Havanese and how they interact with their families. It included personality, grooming, color, and other areas to determine their general well being. The second area was focused on specific health issues and testing by major body system. All Havanese owners were encouraged to participate.

- ❑ Participants were satisfied with the overall survey. 77% were 'very satisfied' [57%] or 'satisfied' [20%]. 14% were 'neutral' and 6% were 'dissatisfied' [3%] or 'very dissatisfied' [3%]. 4% 'no data' (means the question was skipped). *Refer to top chart.*

- ❑ There were 756 individual Havanese surveys submitted. *Refer to middle chart.*
  - ❖ 412 Females, 54% [168 Spayed, 243 Intact, 1 undetermined]
  - ❖ 337 Males, 45% [170 Neutered, 166 Intact, 1 undetermined]
  - ❖ 7 No gender recorded, 1%

- ❑ The majority of the 338 Havanese spayed or neutered had the procedure performed by the time they were 6 months old [59%].
  - ❖ <= 6 months [197 or 59%]
  - ❖ > 6 months <= 1 year [37 or 11%]
  - ❖ > 1 year <= 2 years [30 or 9%]
  - ❖ > 2 years [68 or 20%]

1

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Coat Type

The majority of the study participants were registered with the AKC [80%]. Others were registered with the UKC [6%] and/or Another Club [17%].

Registration Summary:	
Registered in Multiple Clubs	78
Registered in One Club	609
Registration Not Sent In	51
Registration Not Possible	12
No Data Recorded	6
Total	756

Havanese generally…

- Sport 'Strong' beautiful coats [81%]. *Refer to bottom chart.*
- Come in a wide range of dominant colors: Black [37%], White [28%], Cream [15%], Gold [8%], Gray [7%], Red [2%], Chocolate [2%], No Data Recorded [1%].
- Are groomed by their owners [90%].
- Are Friendly/Polite [70%]. Others are Shy/Timid [19%] and a few are Obnoxious/Aggressive [6%]; No Data Recorded [5%].
- Live with other family pets such as: Other dogs [75%]; Cats [31%]; and Birds [8%]. There were a few families where a Havanese was the only pet [15%]. Note: Totals do not add because some Havanese live with multiple kinds of pets.
- Are identified with Microchips [78%], Tattoos Only [5%], Collar with Tag Only [12%], Nothing [4%], No Data Recorded [1%].
- Have owners who would consider participating in a non-anonymous HCA Health Survey [86%].
- Have problems with ear infections [18%].

HCA National Specialty
Health Survey Summary
August 2004

Health Testing Summary:

- **Musculo-Skeletal**
  - **Radiographs for hips/forelegs [29%]**
  - **Patella's examined [72%]**
  - **Surgery for Orthopedic problems [3%]
    or 1 out of every 36 participants]**

- **CERF [84% examined]**
  - **Eyes Examined - CERF Current [56%]**
  - **Eyes Examined - No CERF # [29%]**
  - **Eyes Not Examined [14%]**
  - **No Data Recorded [2%]**

- **Liver [30% tested]**
  - **ALT Tested [24%]**
  - **Bile Acids [17%]**

- **Heart [80% tested]**
  - **[7%] of these were examined by using EKG,
    Echocardiogram, and/or Radiograph**

- **BAER [38% tested]**

System: Primary Health Problem(s) Reported [# of Havs]	# of Havs	Rate of Reported Occurrences	% of Total
1) **Musculo-skeletal: CD [154], Luxating Patella's [37], Hernia [27], LCP [7]**	205	1 in 4	27%
2) **Eyes: Punctates [19], Cataracts [15]**	112	1 in 7	15%
3) **Skin: Dry Flaky Skin [33], SA [7]**	84	1 in 9	11%
4) **Reproductive: Females: C-Section [23]** **Males: Undescended Testicles [20]**	83	1 in 9	11%
5) **Dental: Tartar Buildup [30]**	74	1 in 10	10%
6) **Allergy: Vaccinations [35]**	69	1 in 11	9%
7) **Urinary: Crystals [21]**	40	1 in 19	5%
8) **Liver: High Bile Acids [33]**	38	1 in 20	5%
9) **Heart: Murmur [37]**	38	1 in 20	5%
10) **Neurological: Seizures [9]**	18	1 in 42	2%
11) **Hearing: Unilateral Deafness [10]**	12	1 in 63	2%
12) **Endocrine: Hypothyroidism [3]**	10	1 in 76	1%

Havanese Club of America

Weight and Height Data Table

The table summarizes the survey participants by reported age and sex.
The Min and Max Weight and Height values are included in the table to show the wide range of Havanese sizes submitted.

Age Summary	Sex	Avg Weight (lbs)	Avg Height (inches)	Min Weight	Max Weight	Min Height	Max Height
< 6 months	Female	6.4	8.2	1.5	12	5	10
< 6 months	Male	8.1	8.3	1.5	15	5.5	11.75
6 months-1 year	Female	9.1	9.5	6	12	7.5	11
6 months-1 year	Male	11.1	10.4	6	18	8.75	12.5
1-2 years	Female	10.5	10.0	7	16	7	13
1-2 years	Male	12.4	10.4	8	21	7	15
2-3 years	Female	11.4	10.2	7	18	9	14
2-3 years	Male	13.4	10.7	7.5	23	6	14
3-5 years	Female	11.9	10.1	6	22	7.5	14
3-5 years	Male	13.0	10.8	8	22	9	20.25
> 5 years	Female	12.7	10.2	7	24	8.25	15.75
> 5 years	Male	13.9	10.8	9	25	8	15.5

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The Height related data analysis below only includes survey participants at least 1 year old with a Height of > 1 inch reported.

How many survey participants meet the Height Standard?

- ➤ [88%] fell within the standard height range of 8.5 and 11.5 inches [Avg Weight =12.0 lbs]
- ➤ [3%] were less than 8.5 inches [Avg Weight = 9.2 lbs]
- ➤ [9%] were greater than 11.5 [Avg Weight =16.0 lbs]

Another Interesting Fact on Heights…

- ➤ [65%] fell within the "ideal" standard height range of 9.0 and 10.5 inches [Avg Weight = 11.5 lbs]
- ➤ [5%] were less than 9.0 inches [Avg Weight = 9.3 lbs]
- ➤ [30%] were greater than 10.5 inches [Avg Weight = 14.5 lbs]

Summary by Karon Fowler

HCA Havanese Health 2004 Survey

A Letter From the HCA Health Committee

It is the consensus of the Havanese Club of America (HCA) Health Committee that this survey has given us a valid snapshot of health issues affecting the breed. The information captured will assist us in improving the health of the breed in two primary areas. First, it will allow us to focus on addressing the problems that affect the most dogs. Second, it provides us an opportunity to prevent the less common health problems from becoming more widespread by promoting education and advocating testing standards. For example, although the incidence of unilateral deafness is currently low, it could increase dramatically if breeders do not know the status of their breeding stock. This makes it more important than ever for us to monitor our dogs with BAER testing. In this area we have the opportunity to prevent deafness from becoming a significant issue in the Havanese. This example contrasts sharply to the challenging area of orthopedic problems where 27% of the dogs reported are currently afflicted. It is typically much more difficult to work your way out of health crisis than to avoid one.

Havanese breeders are to be commended for their willingness to contribute to the health of this breed by health testing and by encouraging others to health test. The popularity of the Havanese is growing rapidly. We have moved from 86th to 56th in AKC registrations this year. We must continue to be the guardians of the breed's health if we are to keep from sliding downhill as so many other breeds have

HCA Havanese Health 2004 Survey

A Letter From the HCA Health Committee, continued

done. Many will say health testing is too expensive, but it is a small price to pay when you consider the potential impact to the future health and well being of our breed. We must do all the health testing necessary to assure the puppies we produce will be as healthy as possible. Again, prevention is the key. It is much better to prevent disease than attempt to cure it. We owe it to this breed that brings us so much pleasure. Let's not let these great little dogs down!

Special thanks go to Jane Ruthford who devoted many, many hours to the implementation of the survey. She worked on design, question development, data analysis and presentation. Jane's husband, Charles, was a huge help to her in developing the data spread sheets from the SurveySuite raw files. Thanks to Karon Fowler for working with Jane on data presentation and for creating the Survey Report PDF for the website from Jane's data report. And finally, thanks to Jim Cushman for reviewing the data for statistical accuracy and validity. The efforts these talented and hardworking volunteers have resulted in an outstanding health survey while saving HCA literally, many thousand dollars.

The HCA Health Committee:
Joanne Baldwin DVM, Chair - Mary Cane - Joan Little - Roberta Lowry - Margie Staniszeski

GENERAL Knowledge

Over 90% of the Health Survey dogs became part of their household as puppies. 96% of the dogs in the Survey are owned by the person who filled out the Survey. 94% of the people filling out the Survey have the dog's pedigree.

Q 2.4, 2.5 % Dogs with ID type [748 answering] or Dog Club Registration [750 Answering]

Microchip	Tattoo	Tag	Nothing	AKC	UKC	Other Club	Reg Possible Not Sent	Reg Not Possible
79%	9%	16%	4%	81%	6%	17%	7%	2%
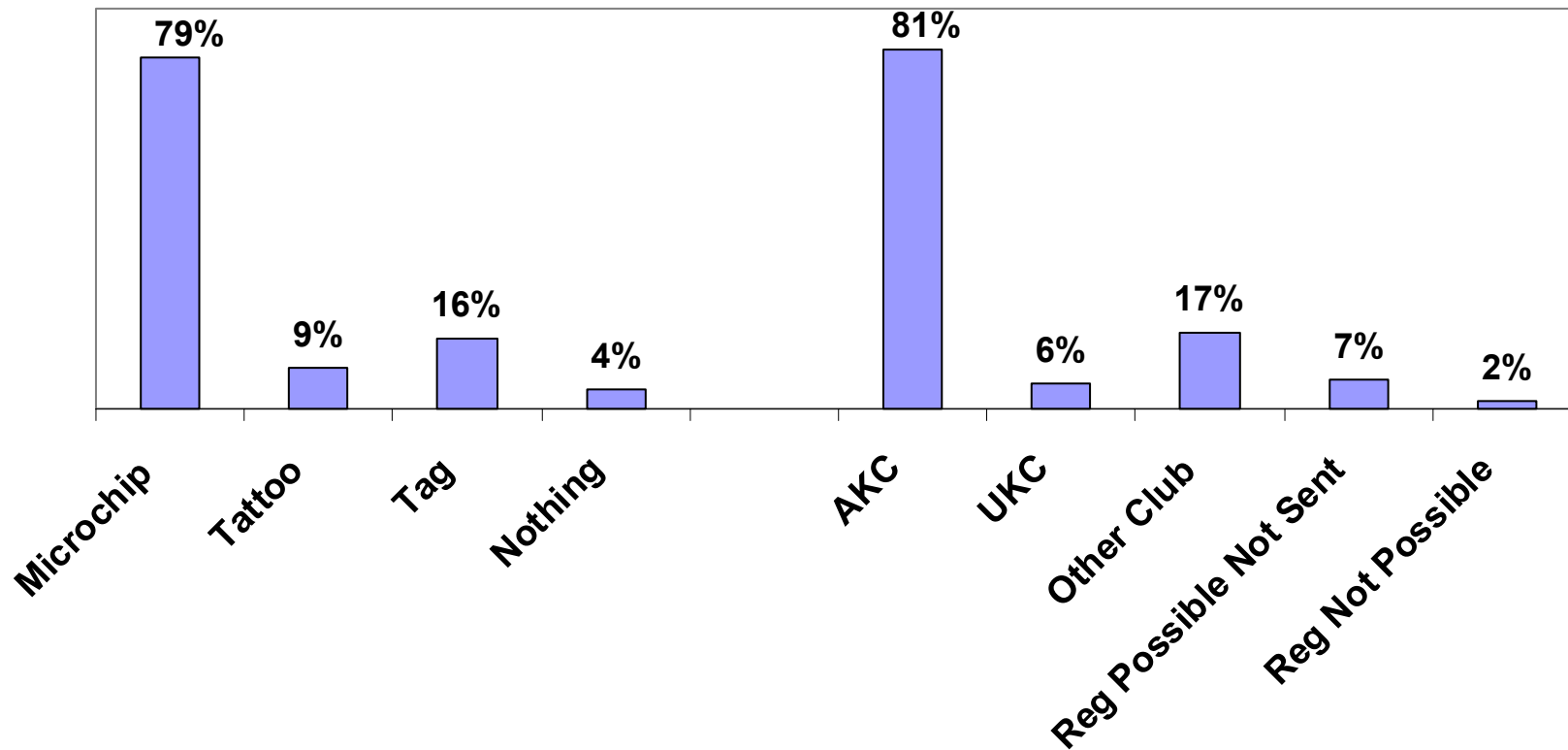
GENERAL Knowledge

Q 2.3 Copy of Pedigree? [749]
Q 2.6 Familiar With Breed Standard?[741]
Q 2.7 Do you Have a Mentor? [729 answering]

Bar chart with legend "% of Dogs Answering":

Category	%
Yes Have Pedigree	94%
Yes Know Breed Std	95%
Yes Have Mentor	73%
Yes, but could be better	5%
Yes I did, but need new one	2%
No, would like one	5%
No haven't thought	11%
No don't want one	4%
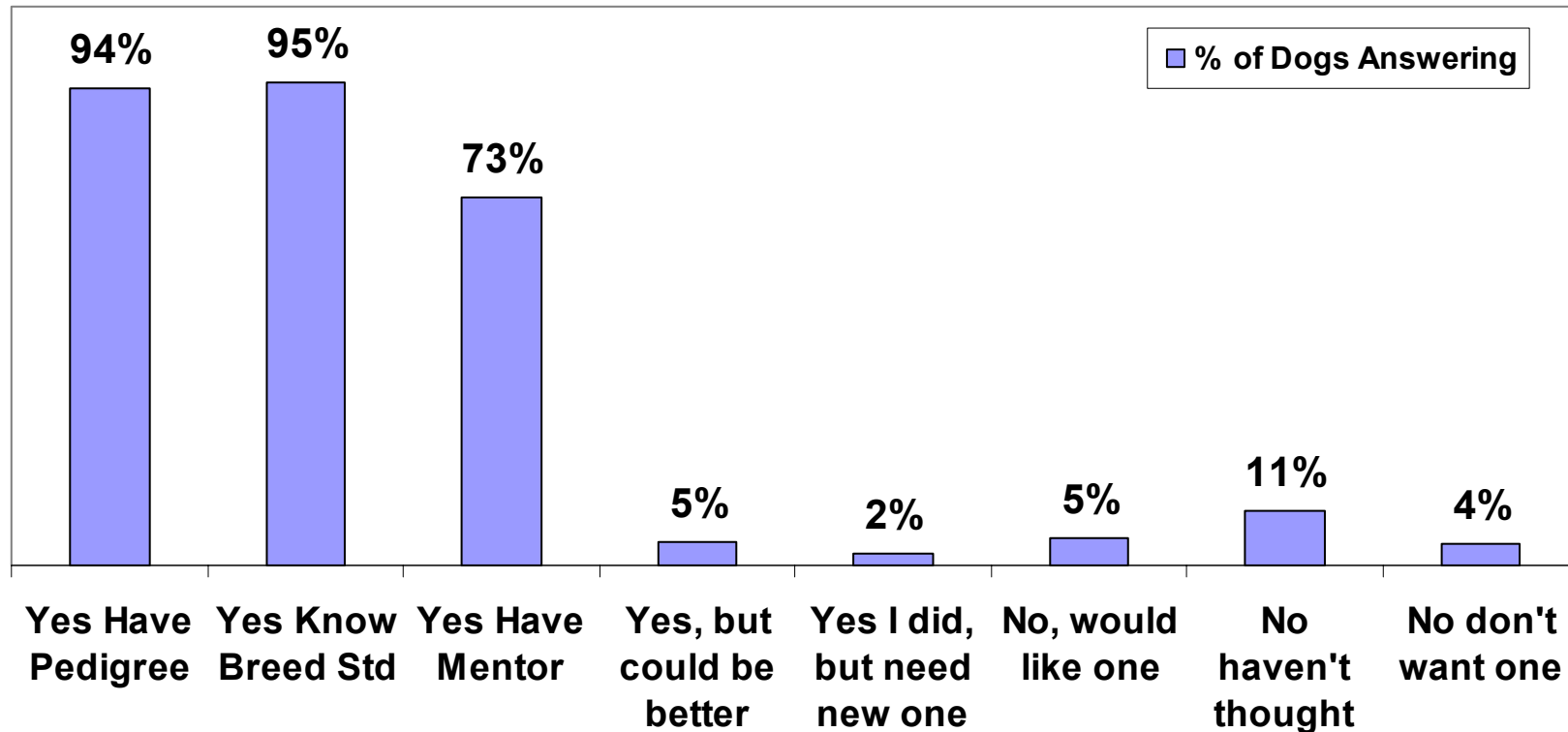
GENERAL

Q 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.6, 1.4, 1.5 Knowledge of the Survey Dog's Sire, Dam and Its Breed As Reported By the Survey Participants

> 119 dogs in the survey reported having all of the information on the sire and dam that was asked about in the Survey.

Number of Records with Positive Responses

GENERAL Knowledge

Knowledge Missing about Sire and Dam of Survey Dog

125 dogs in the Survey reported the lack or at least one kind of information.
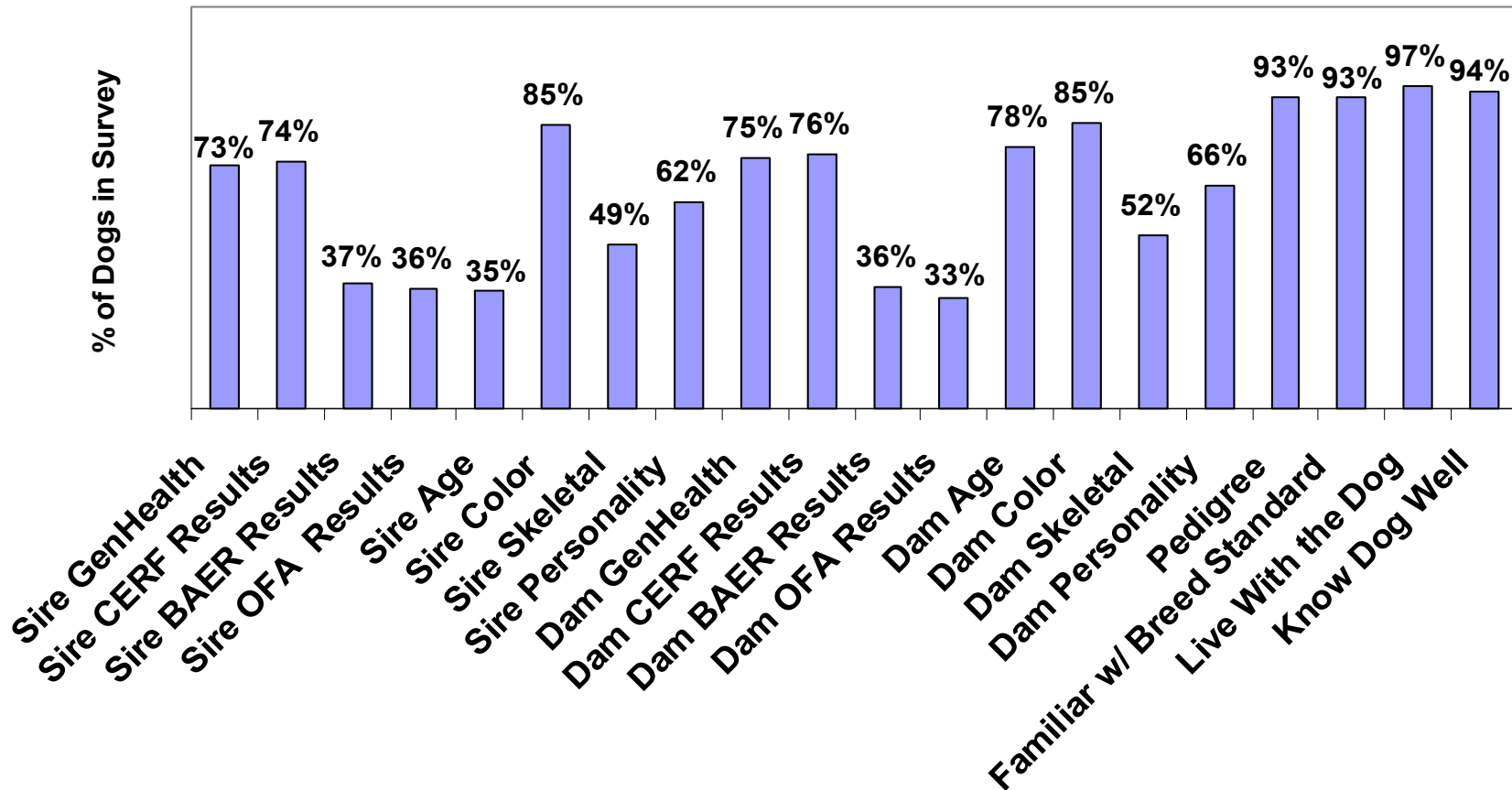
Q 2.1, 2.2 Percent of Surveyed Dogs [756 Dogs] Reporting the Lack of Information About Sire and Dam

Bar chart — **% of Survey Dogs**

Missing Information	% of Survey Dogs
Sire No Test Information	6%
Sire No Information	9%
Dam No Test Information	6%
Dam No Information	8%
No Pedigree	6%
Do Not Live With	3%
No Information on either one, the Sire OR the Dam	10%
No TEST information on either one, the Sire OR Dam	8%
Missing Information on at least one of the kind of information asked for in this section	17%

Missing Information

GENERAL
Age

Q 2.10 Age Distribution of Dogs in Survey

Legend:
- Number of Female Dogs
- Number of Male Dogs
- Total Dogs

404 Female Dogs Reporting an Age
330 Male Dogs Reporting an Age

Average age of Females	3.4 Years
Average age of Males	3.0 Years
Average age of All Dogs	3.2 Years

Y-axis: Number of Dogs (0 to 180)
X-axis: Age (Less than 1, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16)
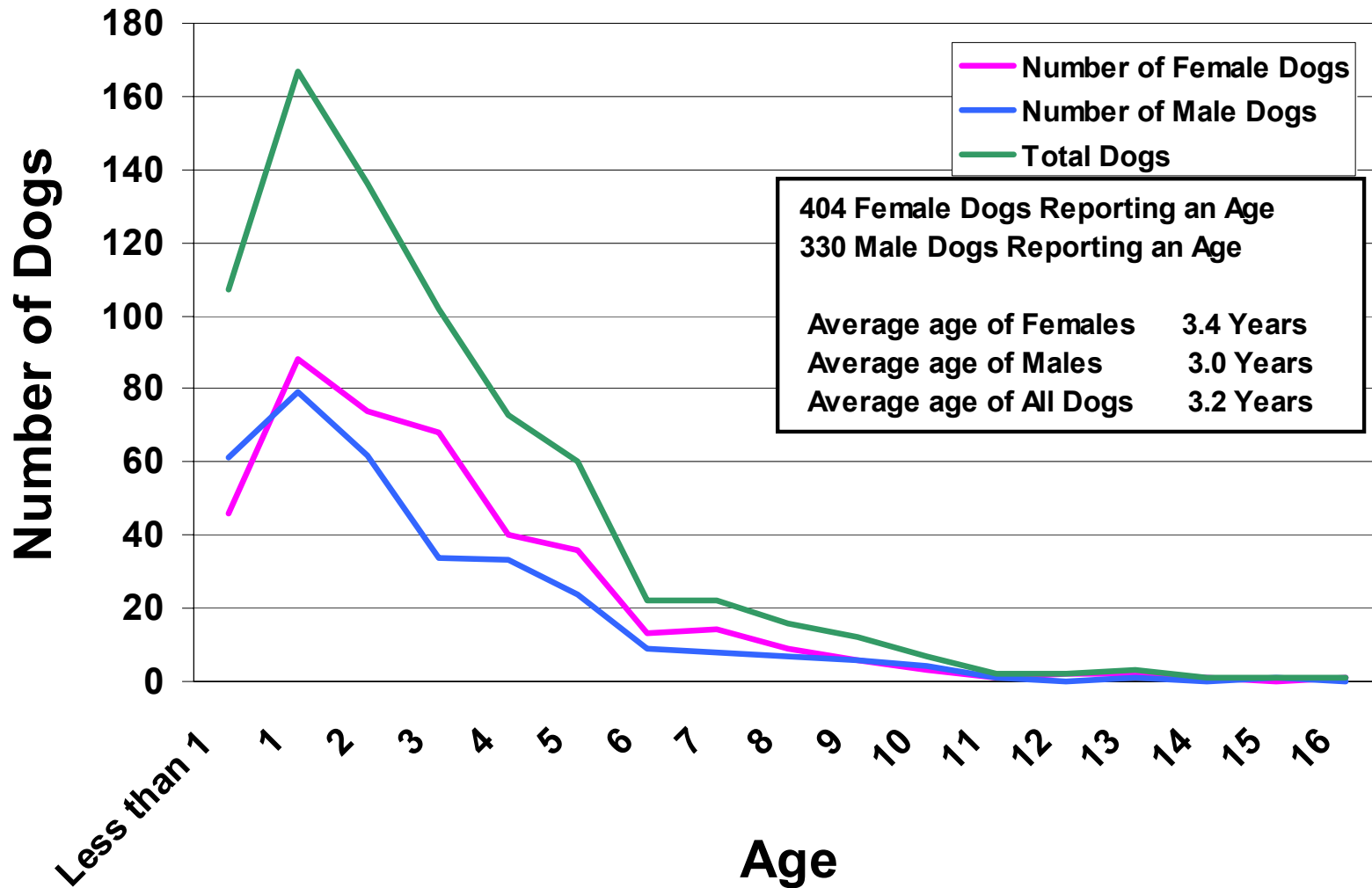
GENERAL
Weight

The average reported weight of a Havanese older than 1 year of age is female 11.6 lbs, male 13.1 lbs.

Q 2.24 Reported Weight of Survey Dogs						
Age Summary	Sex	Count	Avg. Weight (pounds)	Min. Weight (pounds)	Max. Weight (pounds)	Standard Deviation
< 6 months	Female	28	6.4	1.5	12	2.546
	Male	24	8.1	1.5	15	2.905
6 months - 1 year	Female	26	9.1	6	12	1.809
	Male	44	11.1	6	18	2.427
1 - 2 years	Female	88	10.5	7	16	2.166
	Male	79	12.4	8	21	2.959
2 - 3 years	Female	71	11.4	7	18	2.319
	Male	60	13.4	7.5	23	3.800
3 - 5 years	Female	107	11.9	6	22	2.515
	Male	66	13	8	22	2.953
> 5 years	Female	85	12.7	7	24	3.114
	Male	60	13.9	9	25	3.382
Average Weights for Dogs 1 Year or Older	Female	351	11.6	6	16	2.672
	Male	265	13.1	3.5	25	3.289

GENERAL
Height

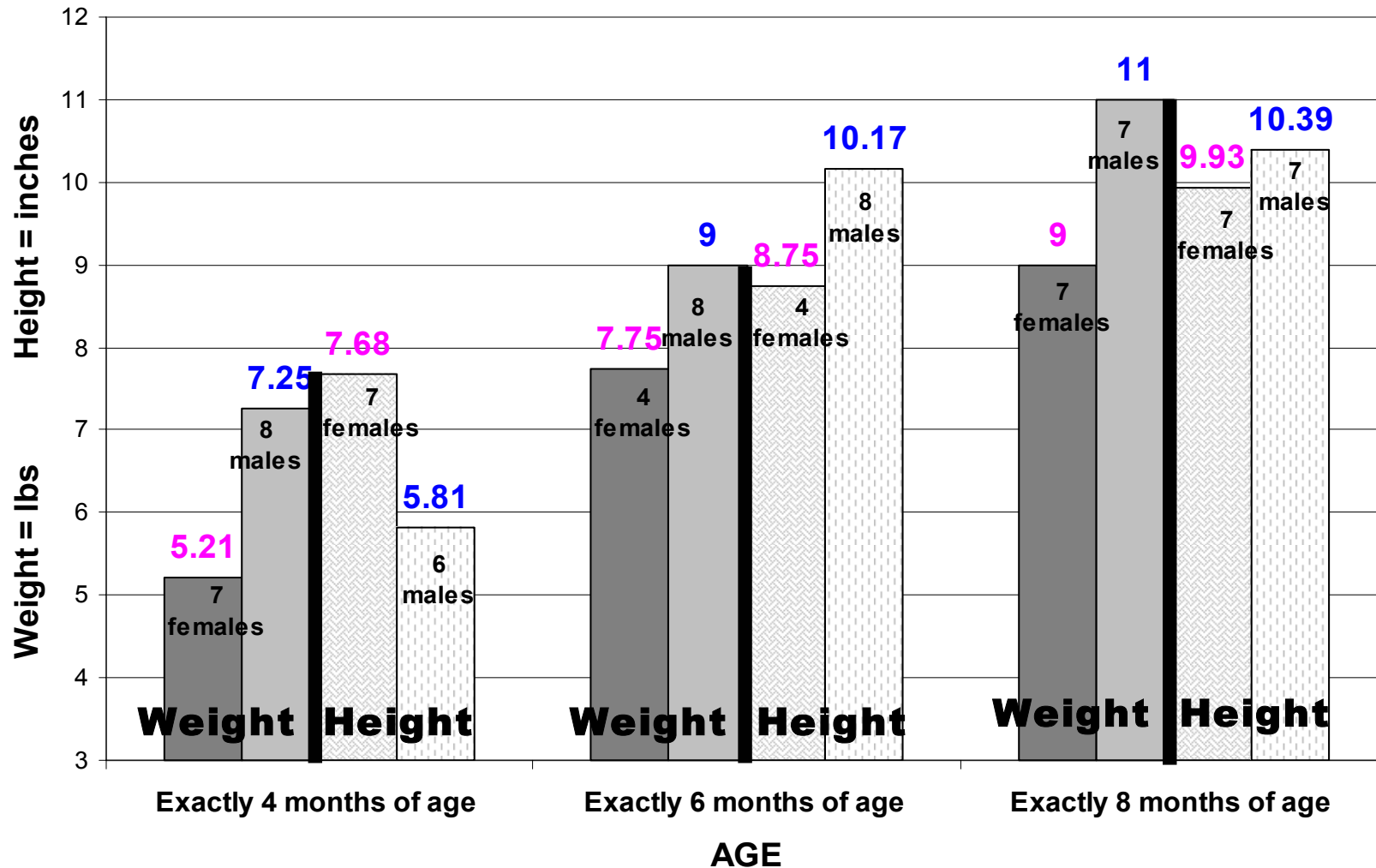The average reported height of a Havanese older than 1 year of age is female 10.1 in., male 10.7 in.

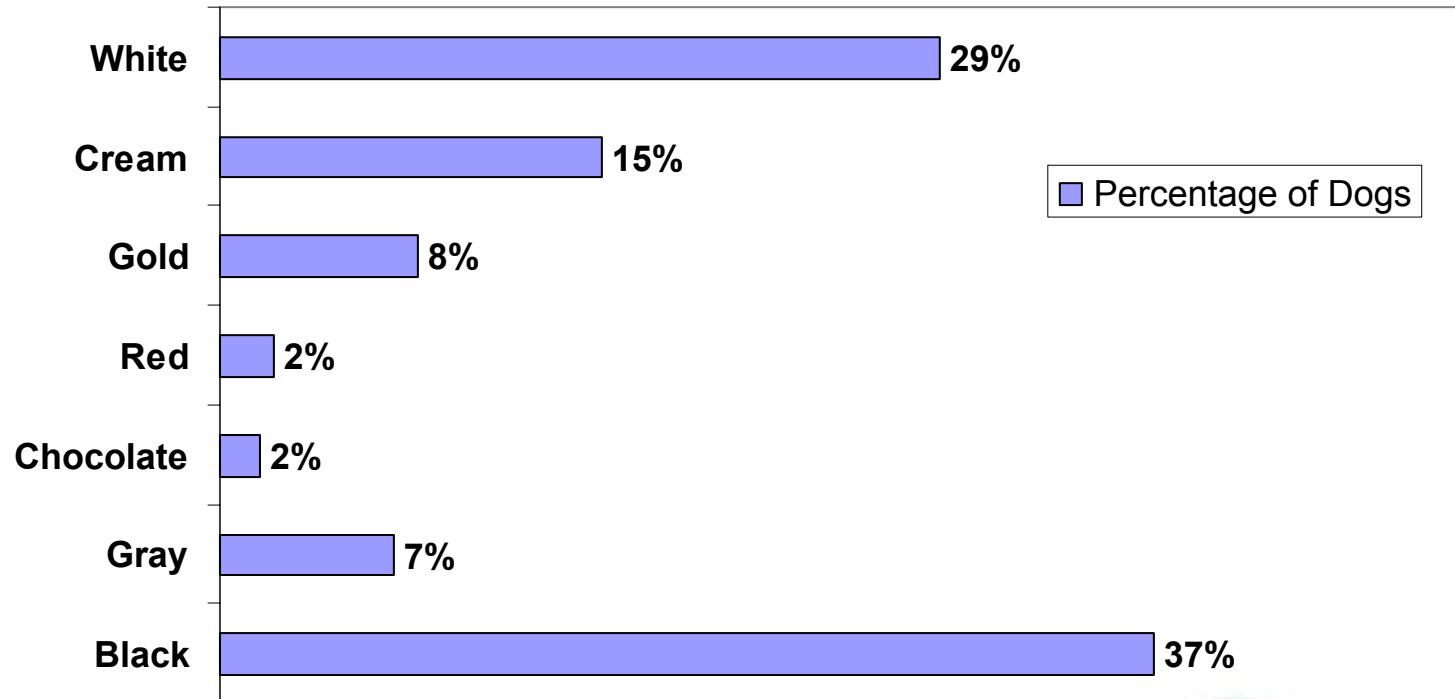| Q 2.25 Reported Height of Survey Dogs						
Age Summary	Sex	Count	Avg. Height (inches)	Min. Height (inches)	Max. Height (inches)	Standard Deviation
< 6 months	Female	27	8.2	5	10	1.387
	Male	20	8.3	5.5	11.8	1.768
6 months - 1 year	Female	22	9.5	7.5	11	0.890
	Male	43	10.4	8.8	12.5	1.072
1 - 2 years	Female	81	10	7	13	1.182
	Male	69	10.4	7	15	1.094
2 - 3 years	Female	66	10.2	9	14	0.884
	Male	56	10.7	6	14	1.343
3 - 5 years	Female	100	10.1	7.5	14	0.986
	Male	64	10.8	9	20.3	1.582
> 5 years	Female	83	10.2	8.3	15.8	1.177
	Male	56	10.8	8	15.5	1.167
Average Heights for Dogs 1 Year or Older	Female	330	10.1	5.3	15.8	1.070
	Male	245	10.7	6	20.3	1.314

GENERAL
Height, Weight

Q 2.24, 2.25 Average Puppy Height and Weight
#### Reported At Exactly 4, 6, and 8 Months

Coat, Color, and Symmetry

Q 2.8 Dominant Coat Color in 747 Havanese Dogs

Color	Percentage
White	29%
Cream	15%
Gold	8%
Red	2%
Chocolate	2%
Gray	7%
Black	37%

Legend: Percentage of Dogs

Coat, Color, and Symmetry

Symmetry of Color Pattern Arranged by Dominant Color

Q 2.9 Are the coat color patterns on the right and left sides of the dog exact mirror images of each other (symmetrical)? 700 Answered
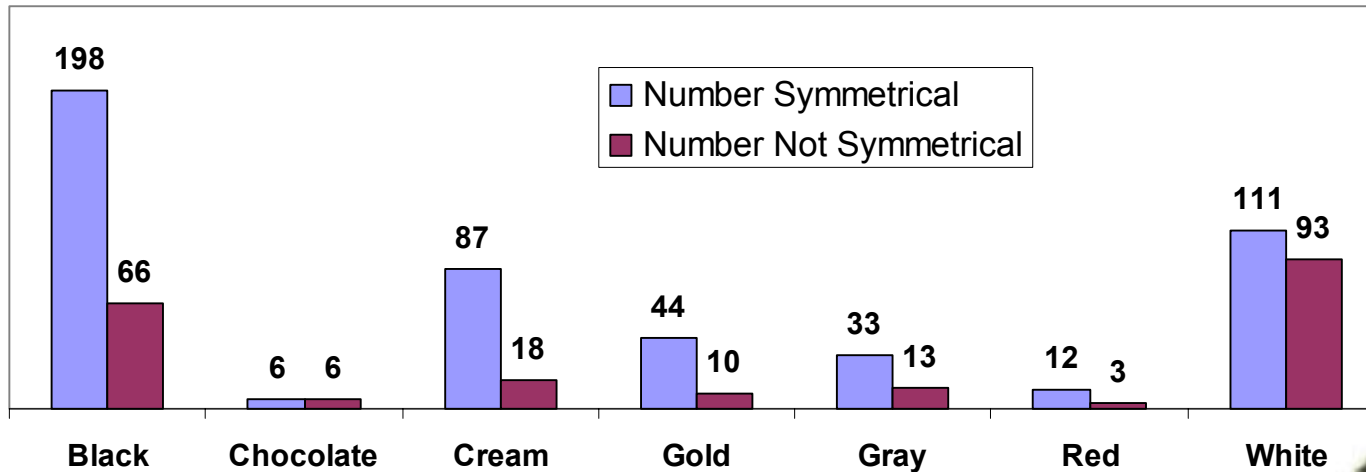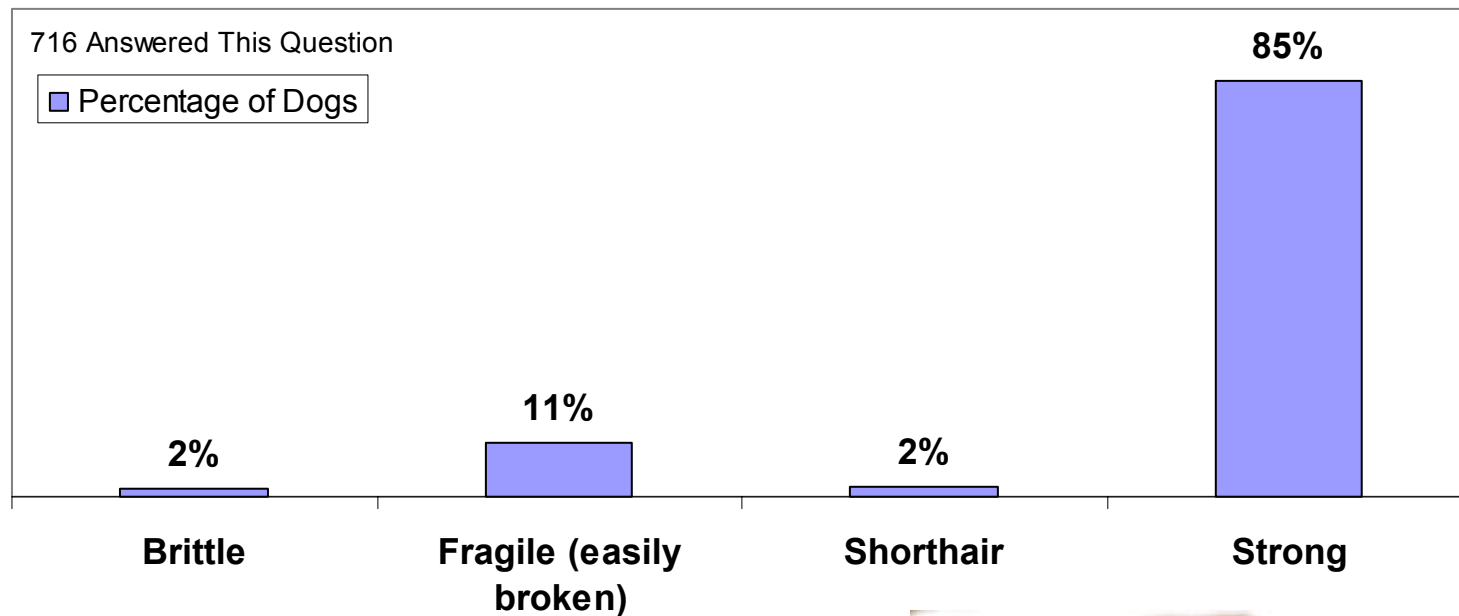

Color	% Dogs with Coloring Not Symmetrical
Black	25%
Chocolate	50%
Cream	17%
Gold	19%
Gray	28%
Red	20%
White	46%

28

Coat, Color, and Symmetry

Q 8.7 Coat Type Reported on Survey Dogs

716 Answered This Question

Percentage of Dogs

Brittle	Fragile (easily broken)	Shorthair	Strong
2%	11%	2%	85%

NEUTERING

Q 2.14 Age That Female Havanese in the Study Were Neutered

Q 2.13 Female Havanese In The Survey
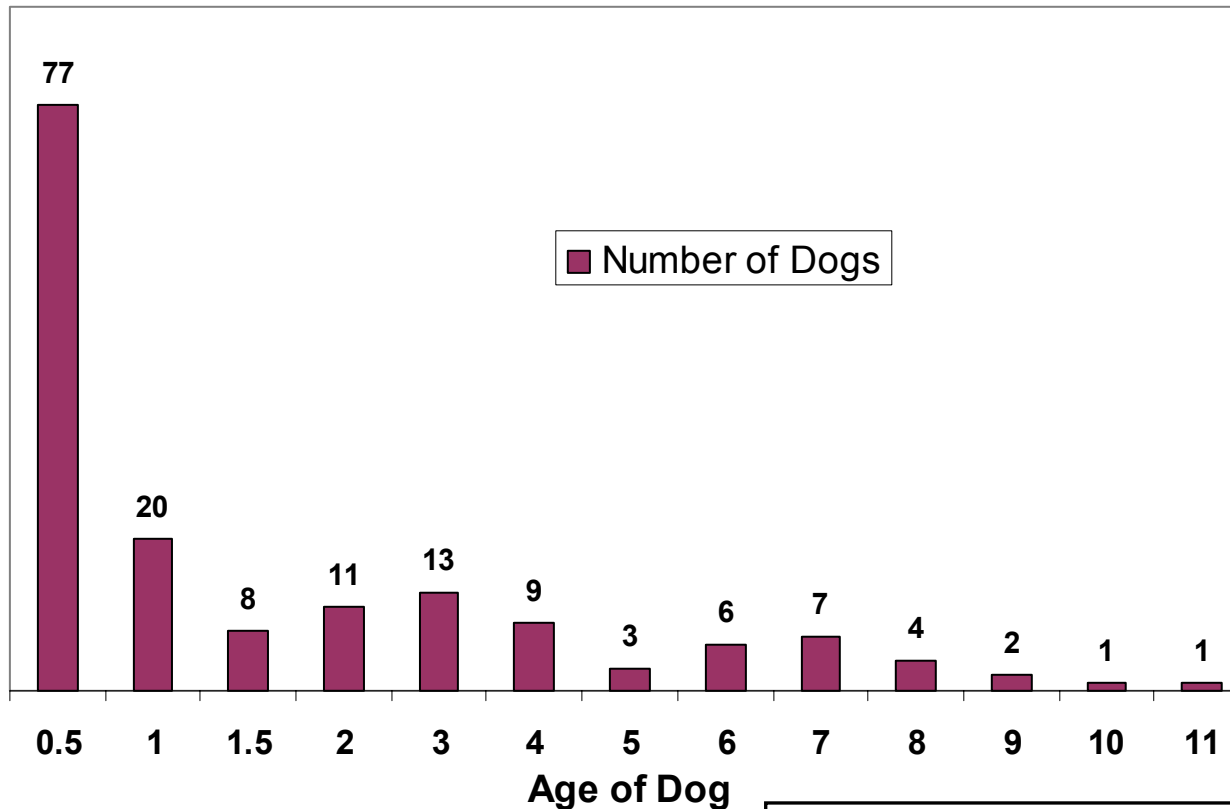
Not Neutered	Neutered	Gave conflicting answers	Total # Female Dogs Reporting
240	162	10	412
58%	41%	1%	100%

749 dogs responded to neuter/spay questions
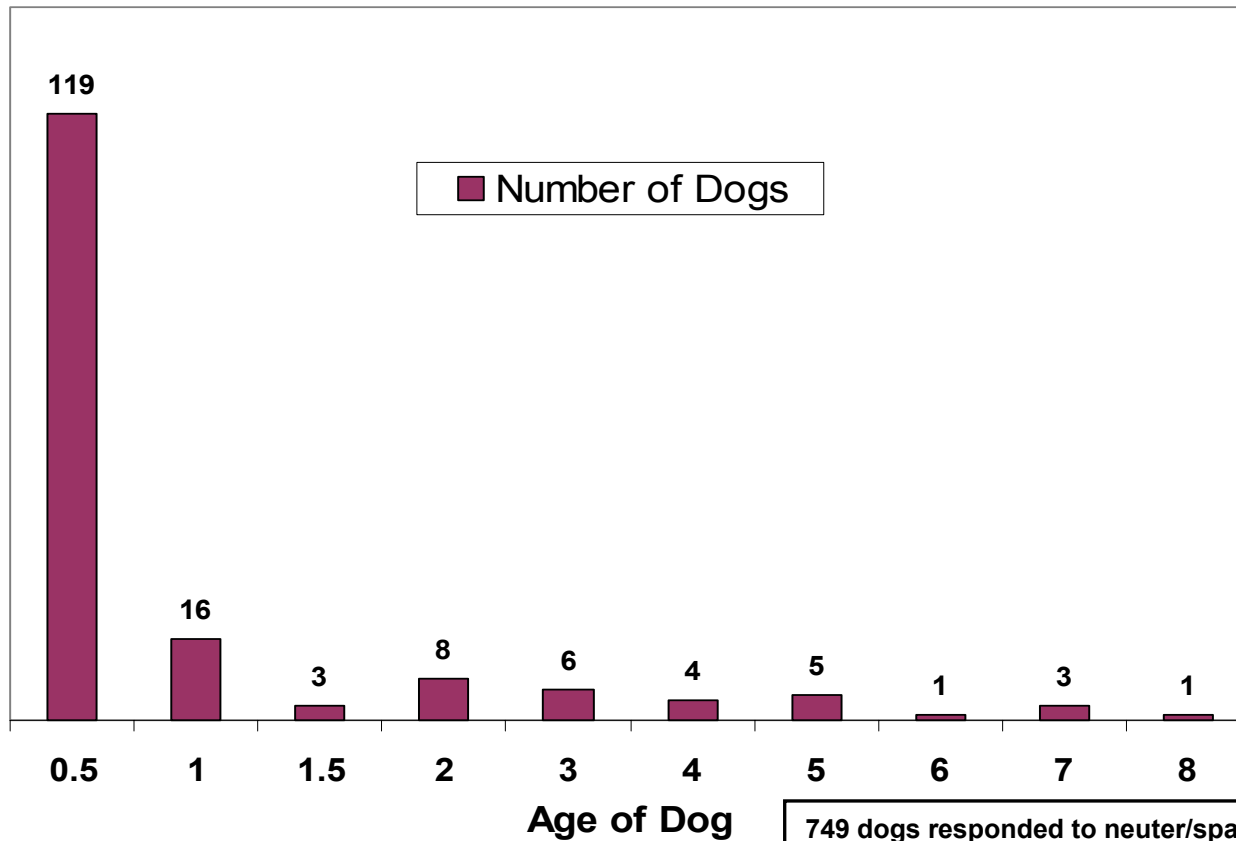 7 dogs had no gender reported

  6 females gave conflicting answers:
    neutered=YES; age neutered=(blank)
  3 not neutered female gave conflicting answers:
    neutered=NO; age neutered=1, 5, & 12 yr
  1 female was undetermined:
    neutered=(blank); age neutered=(blank)

30

NEUTERING

Q 2.14 Age That Male Havanese in the Study Were Neutered

Legend: ■ Number of Dogs

Bar values by Age of Dog:
- 0.5: 119
- 1: 16
- 1.5: 3
- 2: 8
- 3: 6
- 4: 4
- 5: 5
- 6: 1
- 7: 3
- 8: 1

Age of Dog

Q 2.13 Male Havanese In The Survey			
Not Neutered	Neutered	Gave conflicting answers	Total # Male Dogs Reporting
165	166	6	337
49%	49%	2%	100%

749 dogs responded to neuter/spay questions
  7 dogs had no gender reported

4 males gave conflicting answers:
  neutered=YES; age neutered=(blank)
1 not neutered male gave conflicting answers:
  neutered=NO; age neutered=.5yrs
1 male was undetermined:
  neutered=(blank); age neutered=(blank)