

# What are the most common disorders diagnosed in dogs in the UK?

## STUDY SUMMARY

This study explored all diagnoses recorded in a single year (2016) in the veterinary clinical records of a random sample from 905,543 UK dogs in the VetCompass Programme.

Number of dogs randomly sampled

22,333

Percentage of dogs diagnosed with at least one disorder each year

65.8%

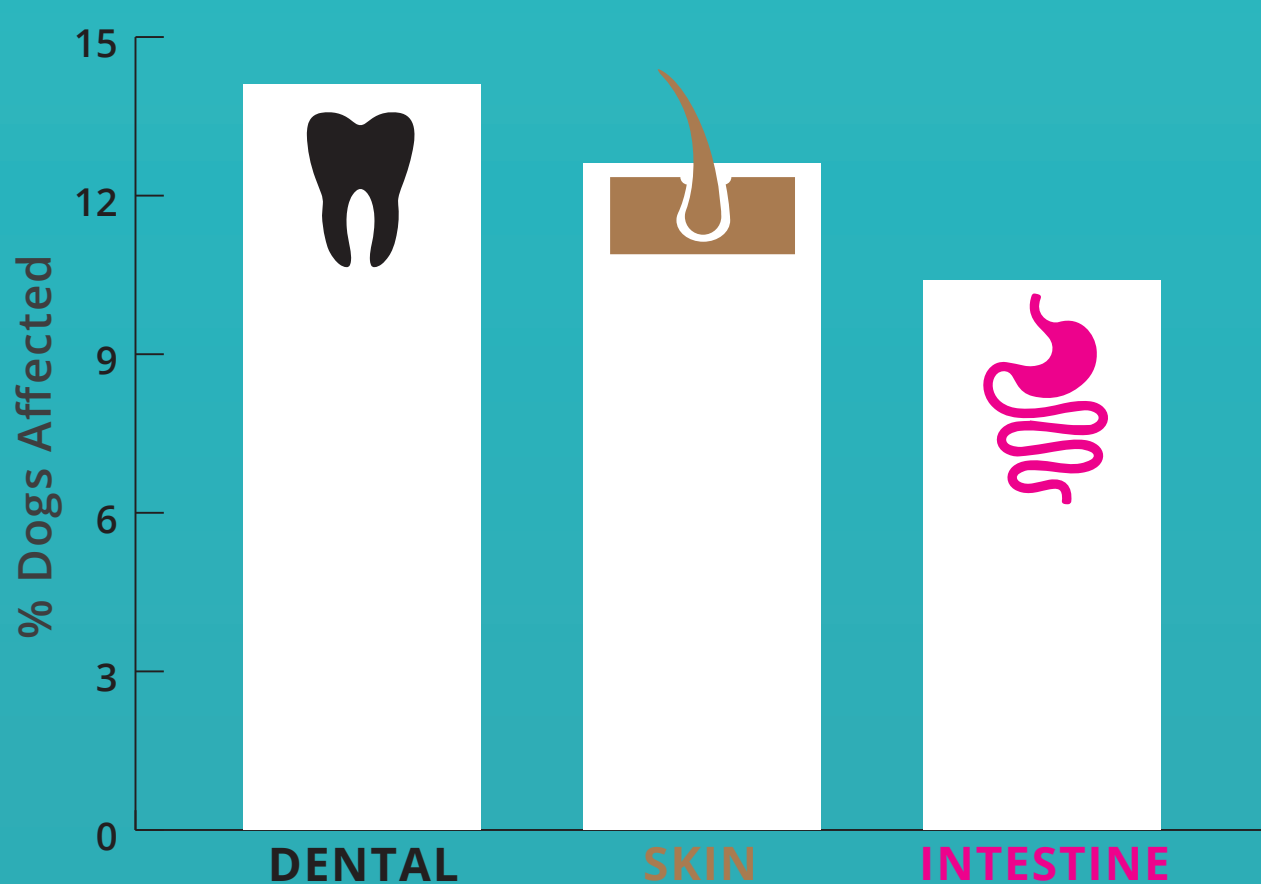
Average age of dogs

4.4 years

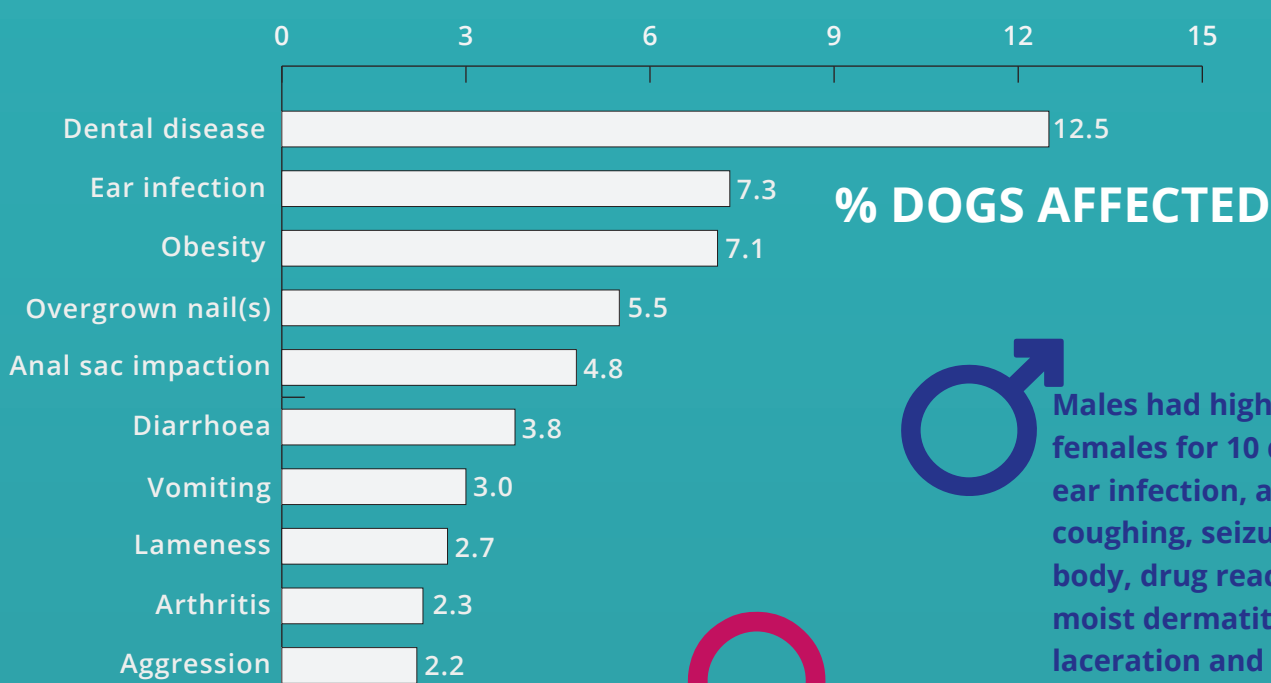
Each dog had on average one disorder diagnosed per year



## Most Common General Groups of Problems



## Most Common Specific Disorders of UK Dogs



Males had higher risk than females for 10 disorders: ear infection, aggression, coughing, seizures, foreign body, drug reaction, moist dermatitis, wound, laceration and arthritis.



Females had higher risk than males for 4 disorders: urinary incontinence, urinary tract infection, mammary lump and overgrown nail(s).



Older dogs were much more likely to be diagnosed with problems than younger dogs.

## CONCLUSIONS:

Many different factors affect a dog's health, including age and sex. As well as the most common conditions, owners should be alert to disorders with increased risk according to their dog's age and sex.

Two thirds of dogs are diagnosed with at least one disorder each year. Anyone considering owning a dog should consider this responsibility before finally deciding to acquire a dog.

Owners should check their dog's mouth and ears regularly for signs of disease and monitor their dog's weight carefully. Preventative care should always be discussed with a veterinarian.

## CLICK TO READ

O'Neill et al. (2021) "Prevalence of commonly diagnosed disorders in UK dogs under primary veterinary care: results and applications" BMC Veterinary Research RVC VetCompass <https://www.rvc.ac.uk/vetcompass> carries out welfare research based on anonymised clinical information shared from over 30% of UK veterinary practices. We are very grateful to the owners and veterinary professionals who contribute to VetCompass research.