



Beagle Dogs in the UK: Their demography, disorders and mortality

The modern Beagle is a popular companion animal dog widely promoted as generally healthy. However, limited evidence has been published on Beagle health outside of laboratory animal research dogs until now. Predispositions to dental disease, obesity and ear disorders have been suggested.

This VetCompass study therefore aimed to report on the demography, common disorders and mortality of Beagles kept as companion animals under primary veterinary care in the UK.

Demography



The study population of 2,250,417 dogs under veterinary care during 2019 (UK) included 19,906 (0.88%) Beagles

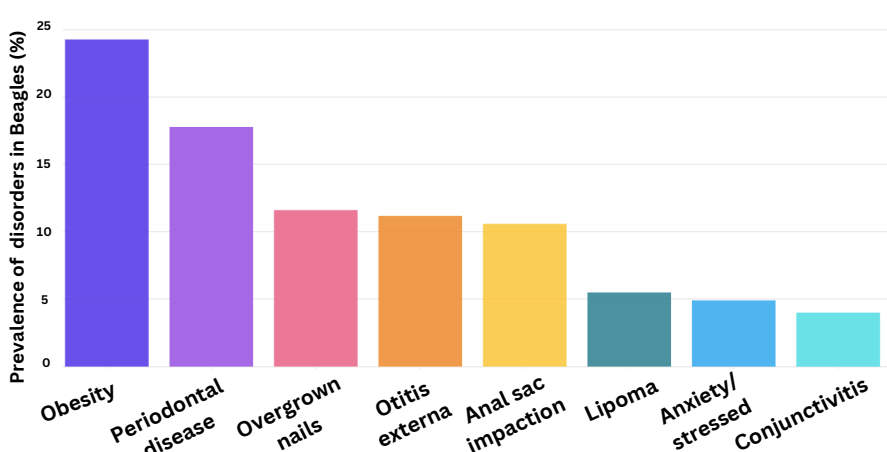
Sex
9,381 (47.13%) were female and 10,525 (52.87%) were male

Neutering
68.98% of females were neutered compared to 64.52% of males

Bodyweight
The average adult bodyweight of Beagles was 18.19 kg*

*Male Beagles were over 3kg heavier than female Beagles (19.70 kg vs 16.59 kg)

Most commonly diagnosed disorders in Beagles



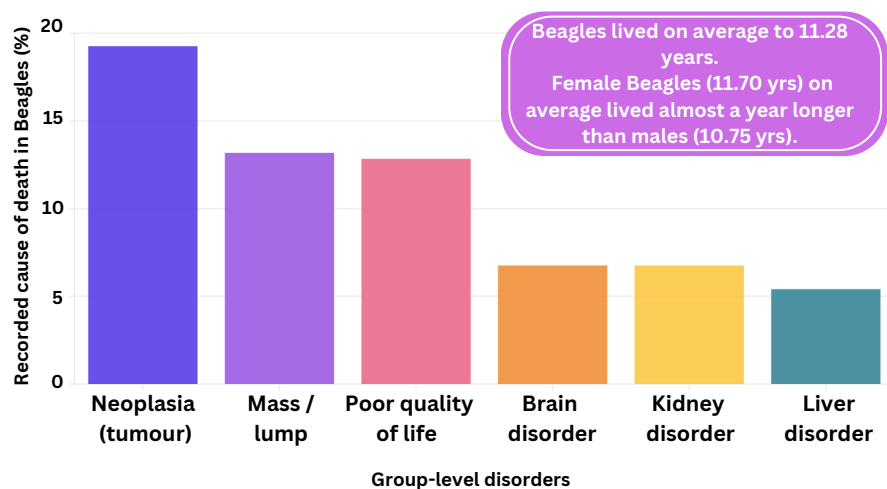
The three most diagnosed disorders were obesity/overweight, periodontal (dental) disease and overgrown nail(s)

Females had higher risk of periodontal disease, anal sac impaction, postoperative wound complications, and urinary tract infection than males

Males had higher risk of postoperative complications and seizure disorders than females

Mortality in Beagles

The analysis included information on 322 deaths in Beagles.



Beagles lived on average to 11.28 years. Female Beagles (11.70 yrs) on average lived almost a year longer than males (10.75 yrs).

The most common causes of death in the study population was neoplasia (tumour) (19.26 %) and mass/lumps (13.18%)

Study Conclusions

Beagles appear predisposed to obesity. Obesity in dogs has been reported to shorten life span and reduce quality of life. Owners should prioritise good weight control to prevent or reduce overweight or obesity in their Beagle.



Periodontal disease carries high welfare costs for Beagles from dental pain, tooth loss and dental abscesses to more widespread effects on kidney, heart and liver function



Overall, this study reports Beagles as largely typical of dogs overall in terms of their disorder profiles and longevity.



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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.