

# Dental Disease in dogs

Dental disease describes the presence of a range of possible oral health issues in dogs including sore gums, rotting teeth and gum infections. Dental disease should be considered a welfare priority in dogs because it is very common and can also result in severe pain for affected animals as well as lasting for months or even years if not treated.



This study aimed to explore the frequency of dental disease in UK dogs and to identify which breeds were most affected.

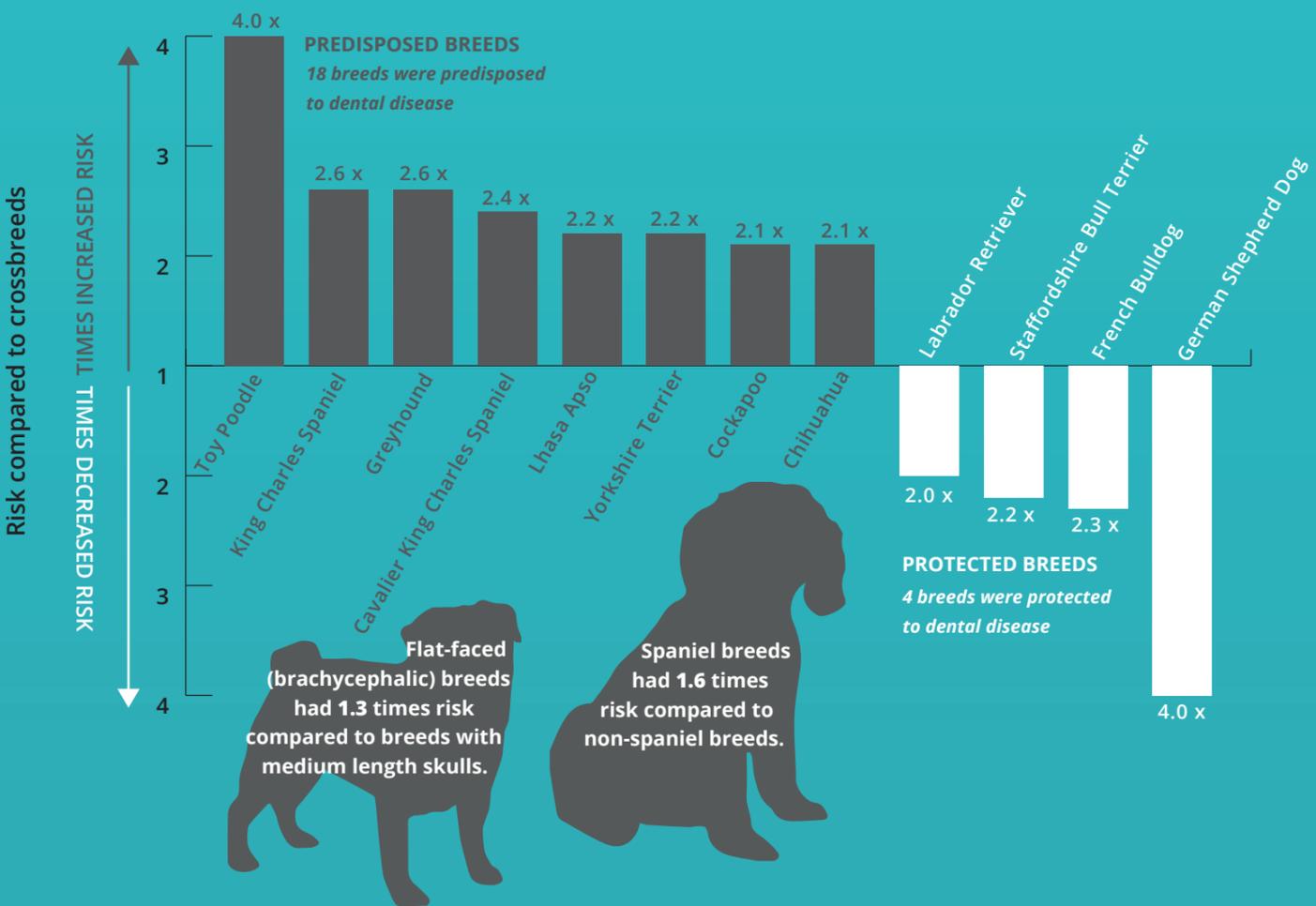
Number of dogs in study

22,333

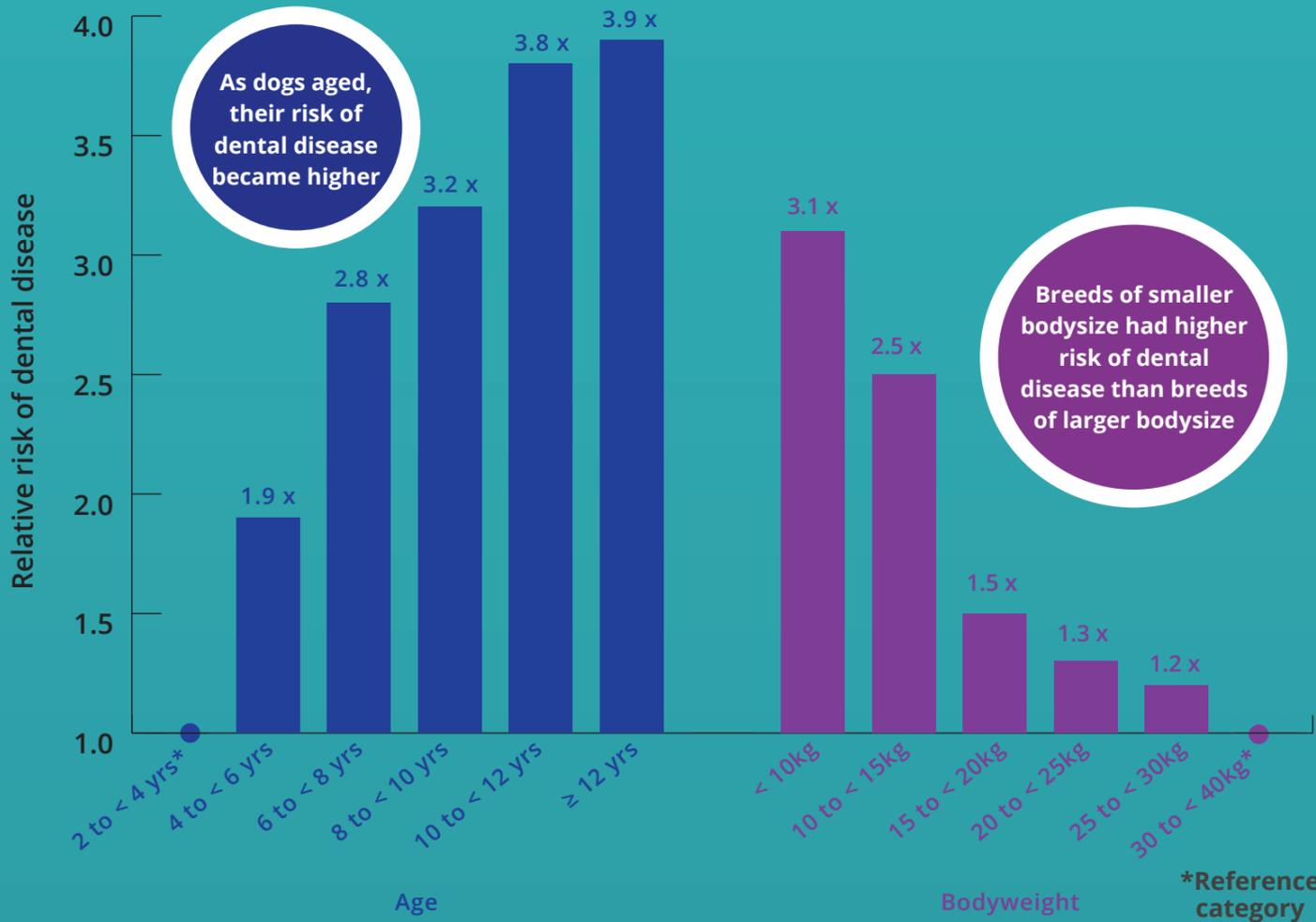
Proportion of dogs with dental disease each year

1 in 8 (12.5%)

## Does the risk of dental disease differ by breed?



## Other factors predisposing to dental disease



## CONCLUSIONS:

Good dental care, such as tooth brushing with a dog-specific toothpaste, is recommended for all dogs from a young age.

Veterinary dental treatment, which requires an anaesthetic, might be needed to resolve dental disease in dogs. If you are concerned about your dog's teeth, book an appointment to discuss with your veterinarian.

Owners of high-risk breeds and age groups should monitor their dog's teeth very carefully.

## CLICK TO READ

O'Neill et al. (2021) "Epidemiology of periodontal disease in dogs in the UK primary-care veterinary setting" Journal of Small Animal Practice

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.