

“Dry eye” in dogs

STUDY SUMMARY

Keratoconjunctivitis sicca (KCS) is commonly known as ‘dry eye’. Dogs with dry eye are unable to produce enough tears (or tears of good enough quality) to keep their eyes lubricated and functioning as expected of a healthy eye. This leads to sore eyes, eye infections and eye ulcers that are hugely painful.

Number of dogs in study

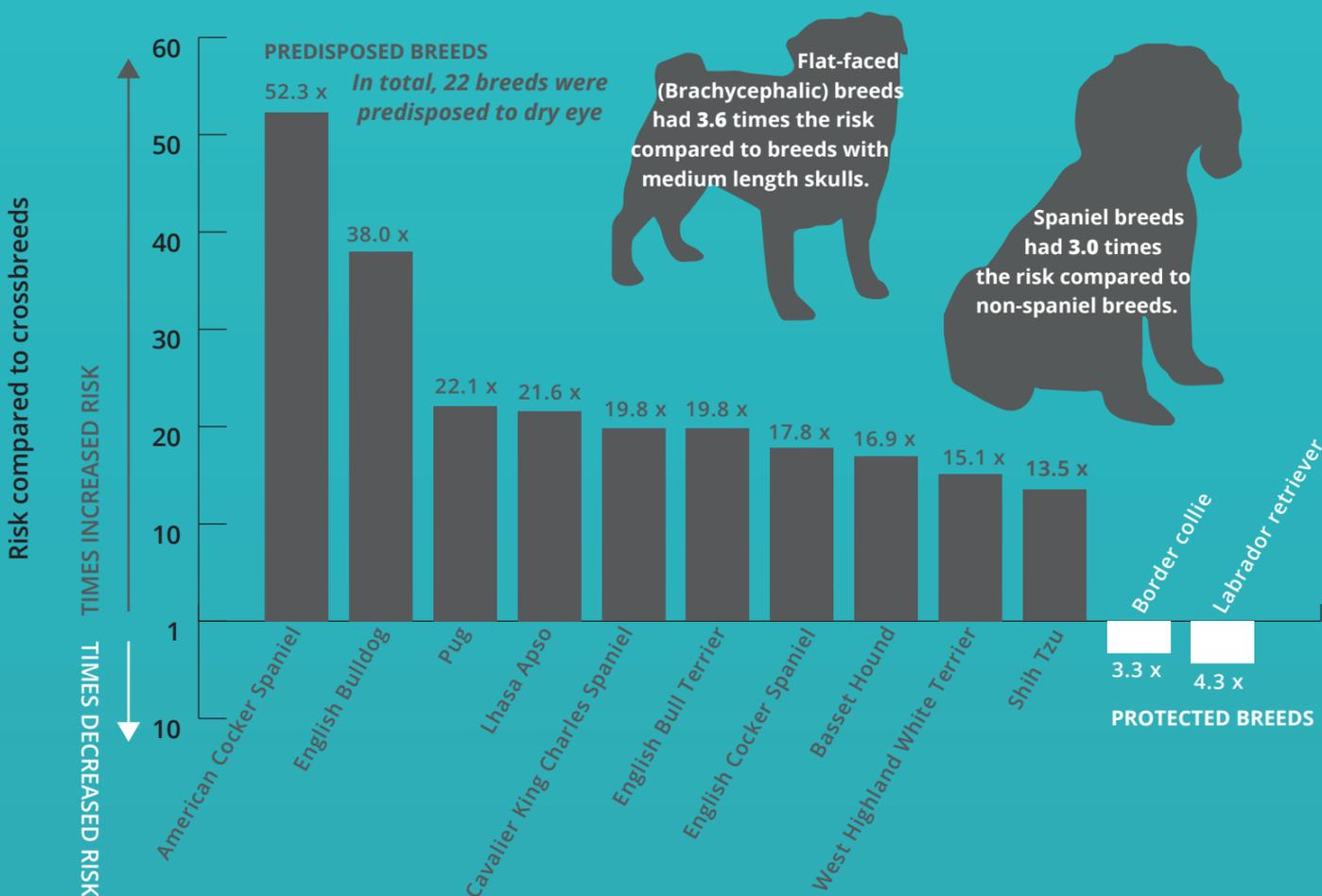
363,898

Proportion of dogs with dry eye

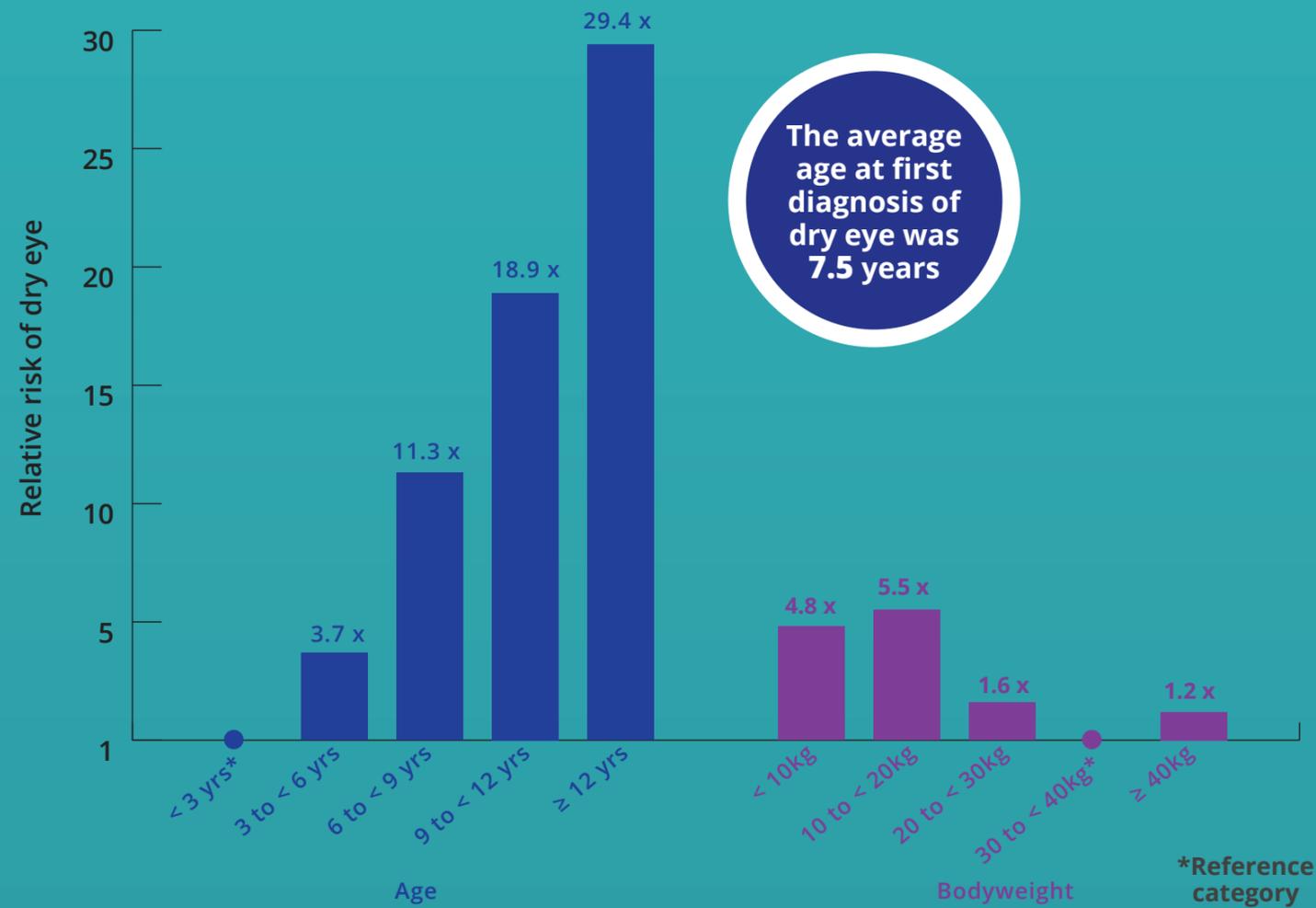
1 in 250



Does the risk of dry eye differ by breed?



Other factors predisposing to dry eye



CONCLUSIONS:

Owners of breeds that are highly prone to dry eye should look out for signs, such as red eyes and lack of shine, and seek immediate veterinary attention if concerned.

Veterinarians should test for the adequacy of tear production as part of the annual physical examination of all dogs. Predisposed breeds should be monitored very carefully, especially as they approach their later years.

The high predisposition to dry eye of flat faced breeds supports the advice from the UK Brachycephalic Working Group to “Stop and think before buying a flat-faced dog”.

CLICK TO READ

O'Neill et al. (2021) “Keratoconjunctivitis sicca in dogs under primary veterinary care in the UK: an epidemiological study” Journal of Small Animal Practice

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