

# Understanding overweight dogs

## HEALTH STUDY RESULTS

Obesity carries severe welfare risks for dogs. Obese dogs have shorter lives, reduced quality of life and higher frequencies of some important conditions including arthritis, breathing problems, heart disease, diabetes and certain types of cancer.



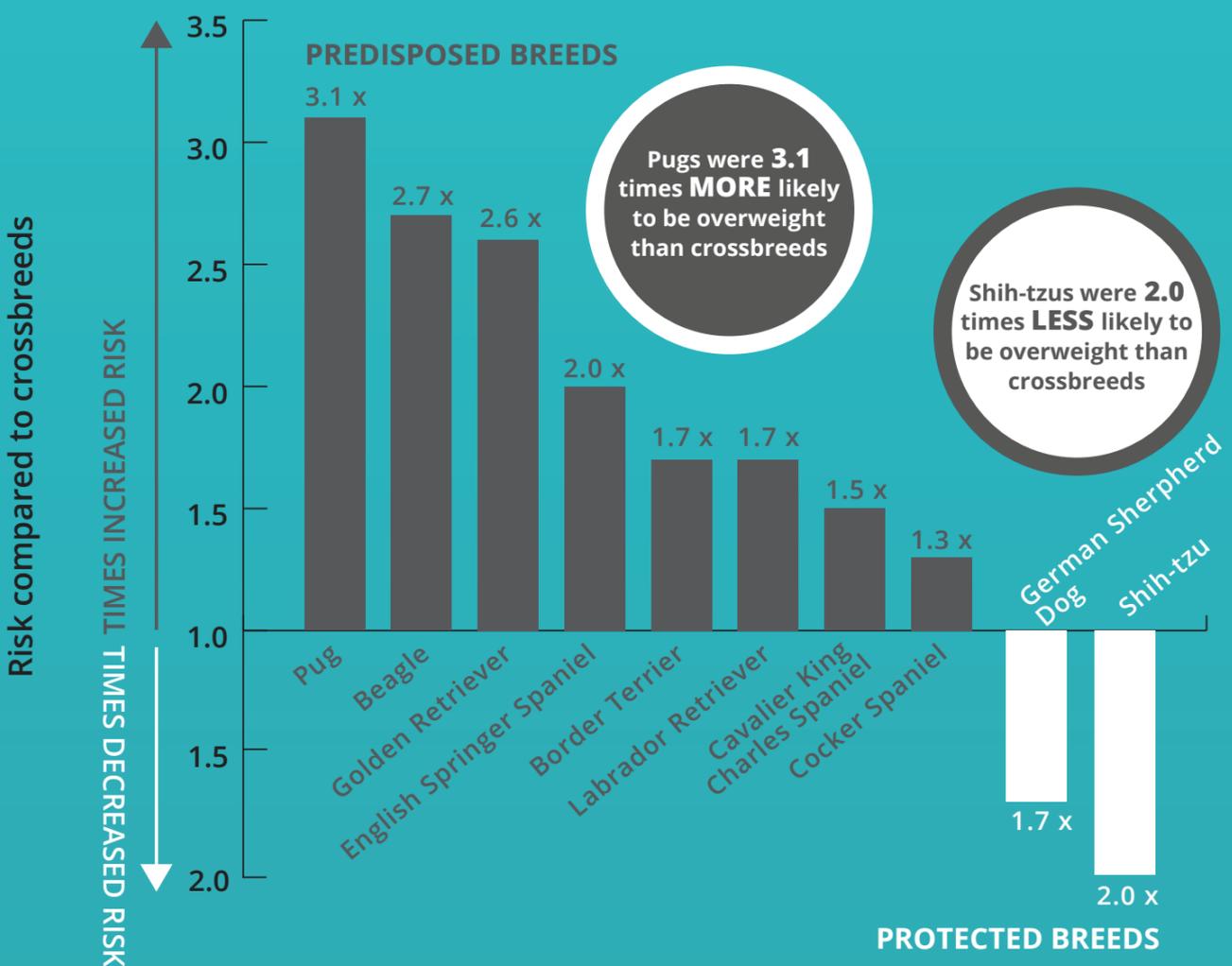
Number of dogs in study

22,333

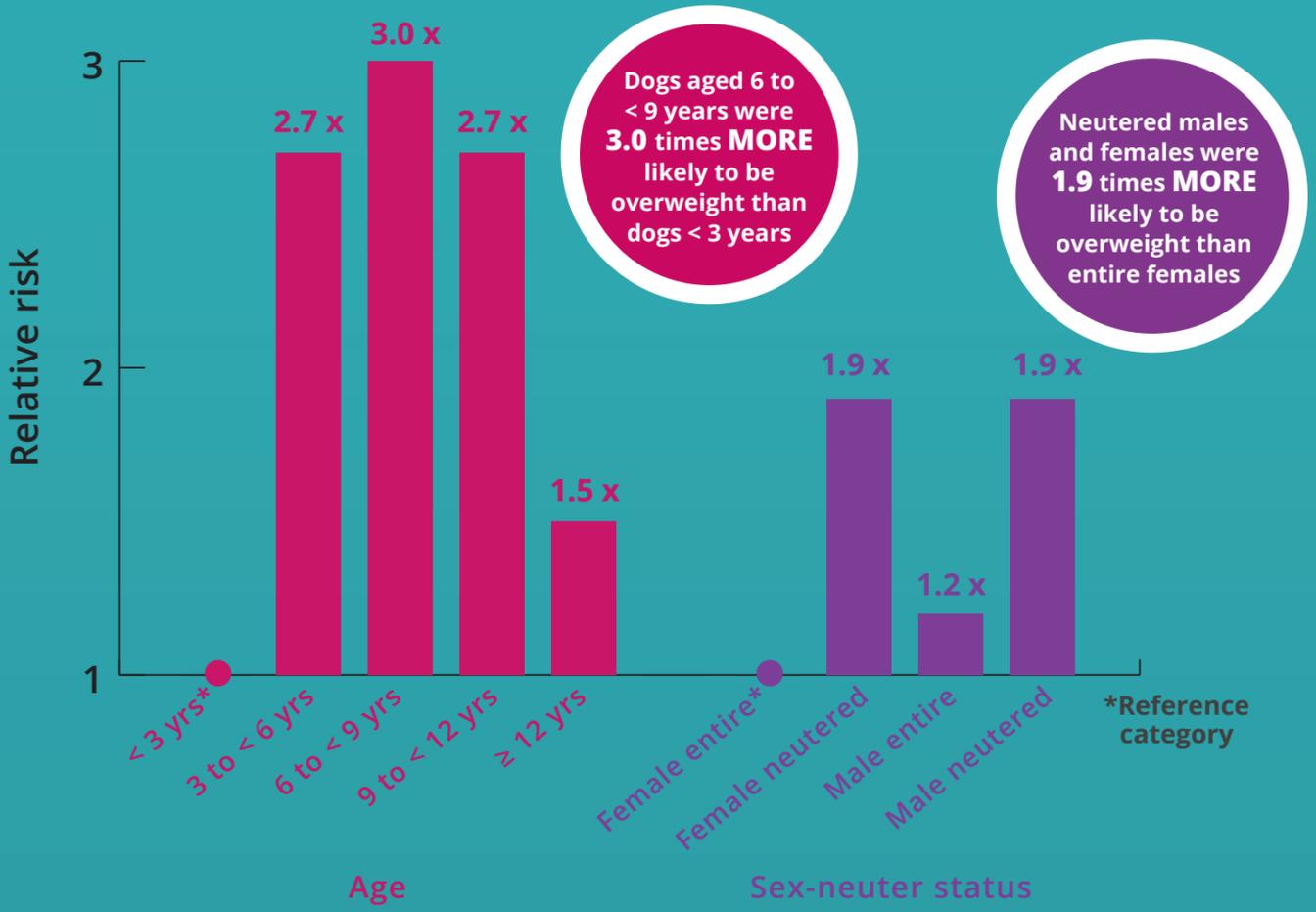
Percentage of overweight dogs

7.1%

### How does the risk of being overweight differ by breed?



### Other factors predisposing to being overweight



### CONCLUSIONS:

Certain breeds, such as Pugs and Beagles, are at high risk of being overweight. Owners of these breeds should pay particular attention to their dog's bodyweight and adjust diet and exercise as necessary.

Neutered dogs are at greater risk of being overweight than entire dogs. Neutered dogs have different nutritional requirements to entire dogs. Owners should discuss diet carefully with their veterinarian.

Approximately 7% dogs are reported here as overweight, but the true number could be even higher. Owners are encouraged to routinely discuss their dog's weight and lifestyle with veterinary professionals.

### [CLICK TO READ FULL STUDY](#)

Pegram et al. (2021) "Frequency, breed predisposition and demographic risk factors for overweight status in dogs in the UK" 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.