

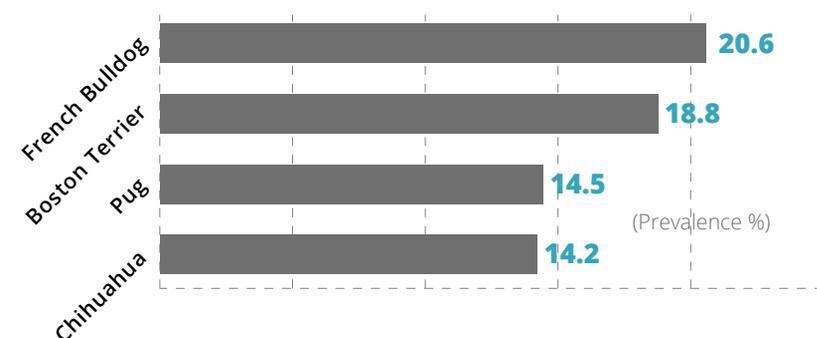
Difficulty giving birth in dogs

Commonly affected breeds

This study evaluated the frequency and risk factors for dystocia (difficultly giving birth) in bitches in the UK.

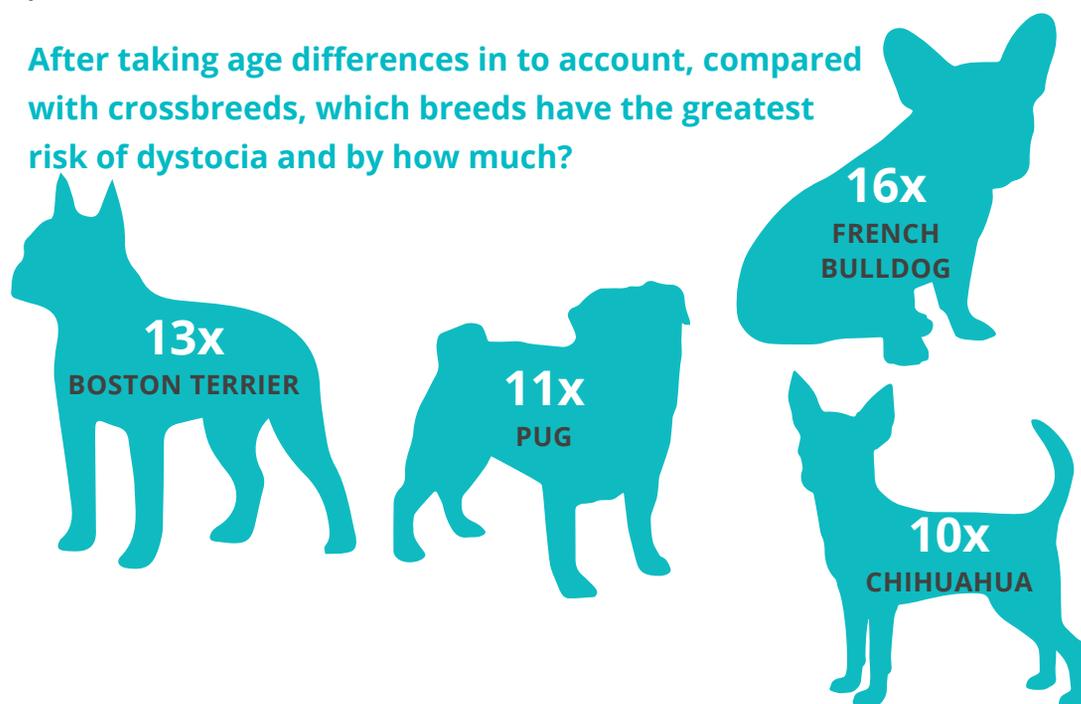
This study used first-opinion emergency-care veterinary records because dystocia is often a veterinary emergency seen out of hours.

Which breeds have the highest prevalence of dystocia?



Overall, dystocia affected **3.7%** of entire bitches presenting to emergency clinics in the UK

After taking age differences in to account, compared with crossbreeds, which breeds have the greatest risk of dystocia and by how much?



OTHER RISK FACTORS

Older bitches are at greatest risk. Bitches aged 3.0 to 5.9 years were 3 times more likely to present with dystocia than bitches under 3 years.

CONCLUSION

- Dystocia is common in some breeds, especially the flat-faced (brachycephalic) breeds.
- Owners of high risk breeds should seek veterinary advice before considering breeding their bitch.

This study included 701 dystocia cases from 18,758 bitches attending 50 Vets Now emergency veterinary clinics in the UK. O'Neill, D.G. et al. (2017) "[Canine dystocia in 50 UK first-opinion emergency-care veterinary practices: prevalence and risk factors](#)" [Veterinary Record \(RVC repository\)](#)