What disorders most commonly affect our dogs?

The study

The Aim - To identify the most common conditions affecting dogs in England and to see if health differed between purebred and crossbred dogs.

The Data - Random sample of 3,884 dogs taken from 148,741 dogs, attending 93 vet practices.

Most common diagnoses

- Ear canal disease: 10.2%
- Dental disease: 9.3%
- Anal sac impaction: 7.1%
- Overgrown nails: 7.1%
- Arthritis: 6.6%
- Diarrhoea: 6.4%
- Obesity: 6.1%
- Injuries: 5.5%

Over 75% of the dogs from our sample had at least one disorder diagnosed.

3 of the top 20 disorders were more common in purebred than in crossbred dogs:

- Ear canal disease
- Obesity
- Skin masses

Individual dog breeds varied widely in their frequency of disorders.

Most common body location affected: Head & Neck

Most common organ system affected: Skin

Conclusion

The major health differences seen in this study were between breeds rather than between purebred and crossbred dogs. Early veterinary intervention ensures our dogs’ health needs are appropriately treated and cared for.

Preventive Health Advice

- Check your dog’s mouth and ears regularly for signs of disease.
- Dogs that limp or are stiff may be in pain. Ask your vet practice for advice.
- Monitor your dog’s weight carefully.
- Pet insurance can help to reduce cost concerns about dogs with health problems.