This study evaluated the popularity, demography, longevity and common disorders of Chihuahuas in the UK.

**Most common causes of death (%)**
- **18.8** Heart Disease
- **13.8** Traumatic Injury
- **16.3** Lower Respiratory Tract Disorder

**Chihuahua ownership in the UK has risen fivefold from 1.01% of puppies born in 2005 to 5.35% in 2016.**

**Most common disorders of Chihuahuas**
- Dental disease: 5.9%
- Obesity: 5.7%
- Aggression: 4.9%
- Undescended testicle: 4.2%
- Sliding kneecap: 4.0%
- Anal sac impaction: 3.9%
- Overgrown nail(s): 3.3%
- Flea infestation: 2.9%
- Heart murmur: 2.0%

**CONCLUSIONS**
- Chihuahuas have unique behaviours and needs that prospective owners should consider in advance. Owners should avoid purchasing these puppies on impulse or as accessories.
- Owners should be prepared for the costs of surgery for common problems in Chihuahuas such as dental disease, retained baby teeth, sliding kneecap and undescended testicle.
- Dental disease and obesity are particularly common problems in Chihuahuas, which owners can take measures to help prevent.

The study included 11,647 Chihuahuas from 336,865 dogs across the UK. O’Neill et al. (2020) “Demography and commonly recorded clinical conditions of Chihuahuas under primary veterinary care in the UK in 2016” BMC Veterinary Research (Freely available)