What are the most common disorders diagnosed in dogs in the UK?

**STUDY SUMMARY**

This study explored all diagnoses recorded in a single year (2016) in the veterinary clinical records of a random sample from 905,543 UK dogs in the VetCompass Programme.

- **Number of dogs randomly sampled:** 22,333
- **Average age of dogs:** 4.4 years
- **Percentage of dogs diagnosed with at least one disorder each year:** 65.8%
- **Each dog had on average one disorder diagnosed per year**

**Most Common General Groups of Problems**

- **DENTAL**
- **SKIN**
- **INTESTINE**

**CONCLUSIONS:**

- Many different factors affect a dog’s health, including age and sex. As well as the most common conditions, owners should be alert to disorders with increased risk according to their dog’s age and sex.
- Two thirds of dogs are diagnosed with at least one disorder each year. Anyone considering owning a dog should consider this responsibility before finally deciding to acquire a dog.
- Owners should check their dog’s mouth and ears regularly for signs of disease and monitor their dog’s weight carefully. Preventative care should always be discussed with a veterinarian.

**Most Common Specific Disorders of UK Dogs**

- % DOGS AFFECTED
- Males had higher risk than females for 10 disorders: ear infection, aggression, coughing, seizures, foreign body, drug reaction, moist dermatitis, wound, laceration and arthritis.
- Females had higher risk than males for 4 disorders: urinary incontinence, urinary tract infection, mammary lump and overgrown nail(s).

**Older dogs were much more likely to be diagnosed with problems than younger dogs.**

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@O'Neill et al. (2021) “Prevalence of commonly diagnosed disorders in UK dogs under primary veterinary care: results and applications.” BMC Veterinary Research. DOI: 10.1186/s12917-021-02699-0. VetCompass research is based on anonymised clinical information shared from over 20% of UK veterinary practices. We are very grateful to the owners and veterinary professionals who contribute to VetCompass research.