Osteosarcoma (bone cancer) in dogs

Edmunds et al. (2021) “Dog breeds and body conformations with predisposition to osteosarcoma in the UK: a case-control study” Canine Medicine and Genetics

How do breeds differ in risk of osteosarcoma?

CONCLUSIONS:
Other risk factors for osteosarcoma

STUDY SUMMARY
Osteosarcoma is an aggressive and painful bone cancer. This study included 1,756 laboratory-confirmed osteosarcoma cases in dogs and a comparator population of 905,211 dogs under primary veterinary care in the VetCompass programme during 2016.

Larger breeds have greater risk of osteosarcoma than smaller breeds. These results can inform breed health reforms, especially in predisposed breeds such as the Rottweiler and Rhodesian Ridgeback.

Osteosarcoma can affect any dog breed. However, owners of high-risk breeds should be especially alert for signs of osteosarcoma. These include lameness and painful boney swelling. Owners should contact their veterinarian if concerned.

Location of osteosarcoma lesions

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8 breeds had reduced risk of osteosarcoma compared to crossbreeds. These were mainly smaller breeds.

10 breeds had increased risk of osteosarcoma compared to crossbreeds. These were mainly larger breeds.

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