

The Health of Labrador Retrievers in the UK

The Labrador Retriever (often just called “Labrador”) has been the most popular dog breed in the UK for decades. Often seen as the “typical dog”, Labradors are praised for their gentle and social nature that makes them good family pets.



Number of dogs in study

1,462 Labradors

20,786 non-Labradors

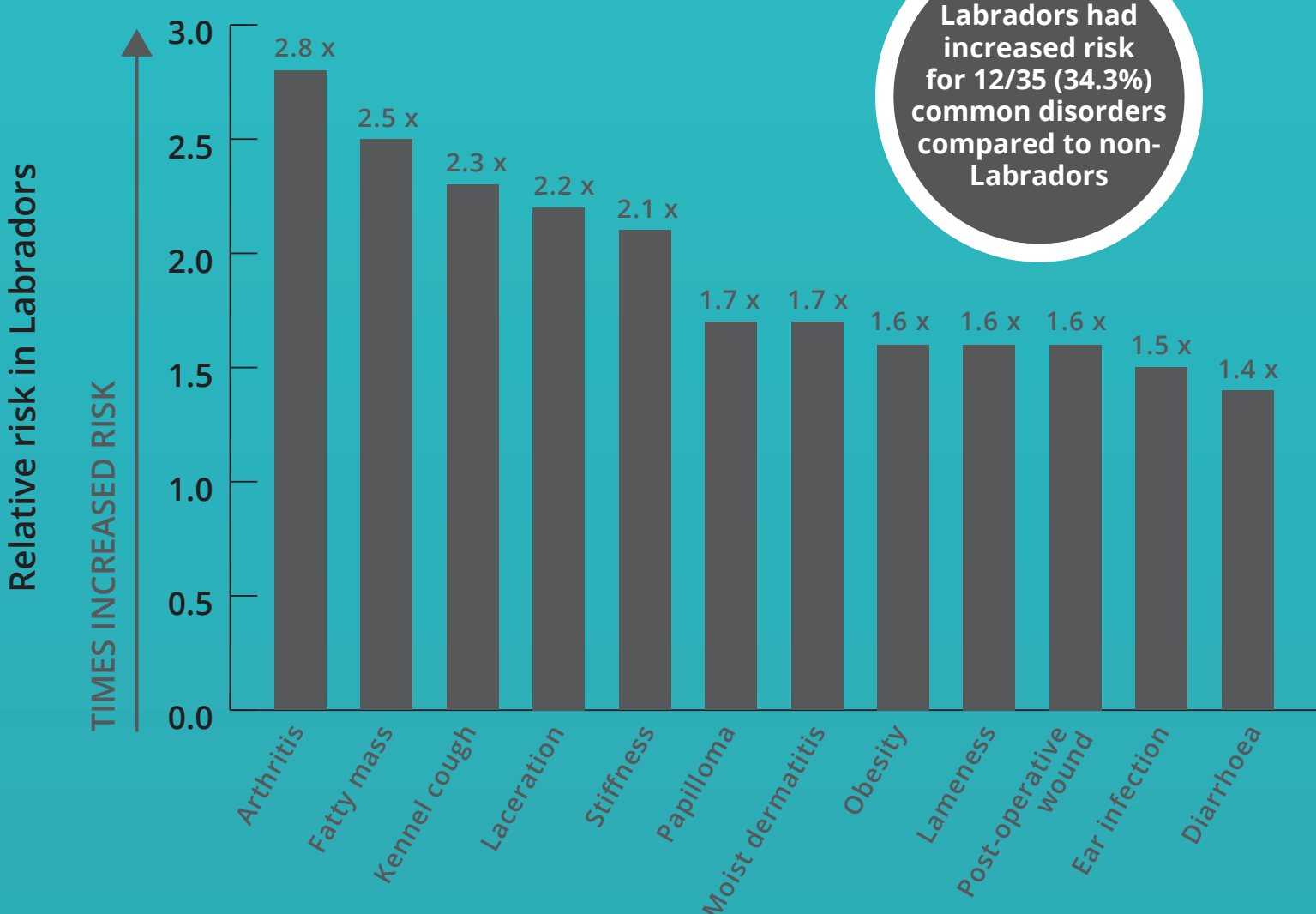
Average bodyweight

32.0kg Labradors

12.5kg non-Labradors

Disorder Predispositions

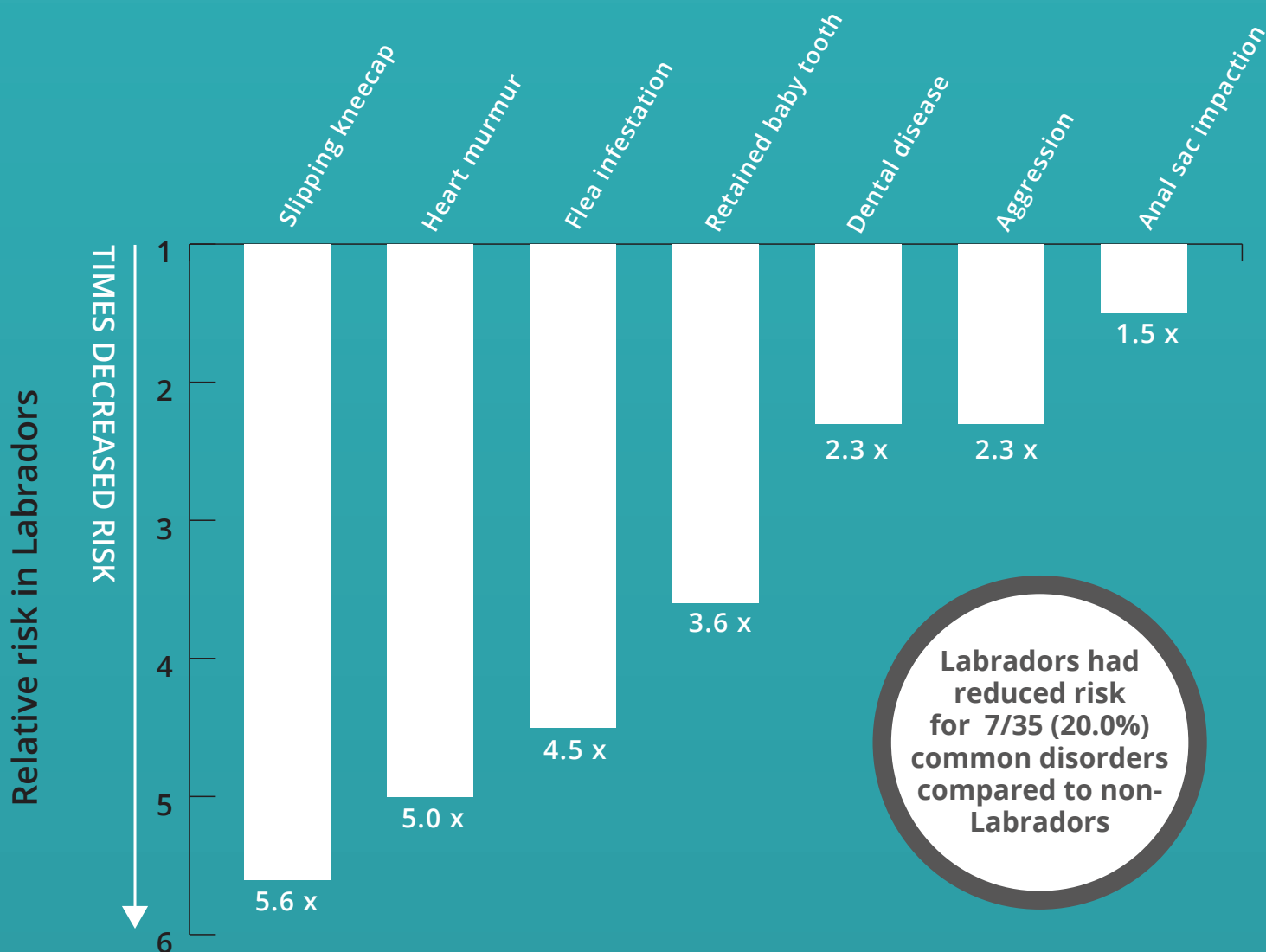
A predisposition describes any disorder with increased risk in Labradors compared with non-Labradors. Awareness of predispositions helps owners to know what key disorders to look out for.



Labradors had increased risk for 12/35 (34.3%) common disorders compared to non-Labradors

Disorder Protections

A protection describes any disorder with reduced risk in Labradors compared with non-Labradors.



Labradors had reduced risk for 7/35 (20.0%) common disorders compared to non-Labradors

CONCLUSIONS:

Labradors are a unique breed with a quite different health profile to other breeds.

Labrador owners can now better understand the unique strengths and weaknesses of their dogs and therefore give them the best care possible.

Labrador owners should be particularly alert to arthritis, fatty masses, kennel cough and lacerations.

[CLICK TO READ THE FULL STUDY](#)

Pegram et al. (2021) "Disorder predispositions and protections of Labrador Retrievers in the UK" Scientific Reports

RVC VetCompass <https://www.rvc.ac.uk/vetcompass> carries out welfare research based on anonymised clinical information shared from over 30% of UK veterinary practices. We are very grateful to the owners and veterinary professionals who contribute to VetCompass research.