

Overall Health of French Bulldogs in the UK

The popularity of French Bulldogs has soared in recent years. However, these dogs are reported as prone to many health issues that can severely impact on their quality of life. This study aimed to explore these issues by comparing the health of French Bulldogs in the UK to dogs not of this breed.



Number of dogs in study

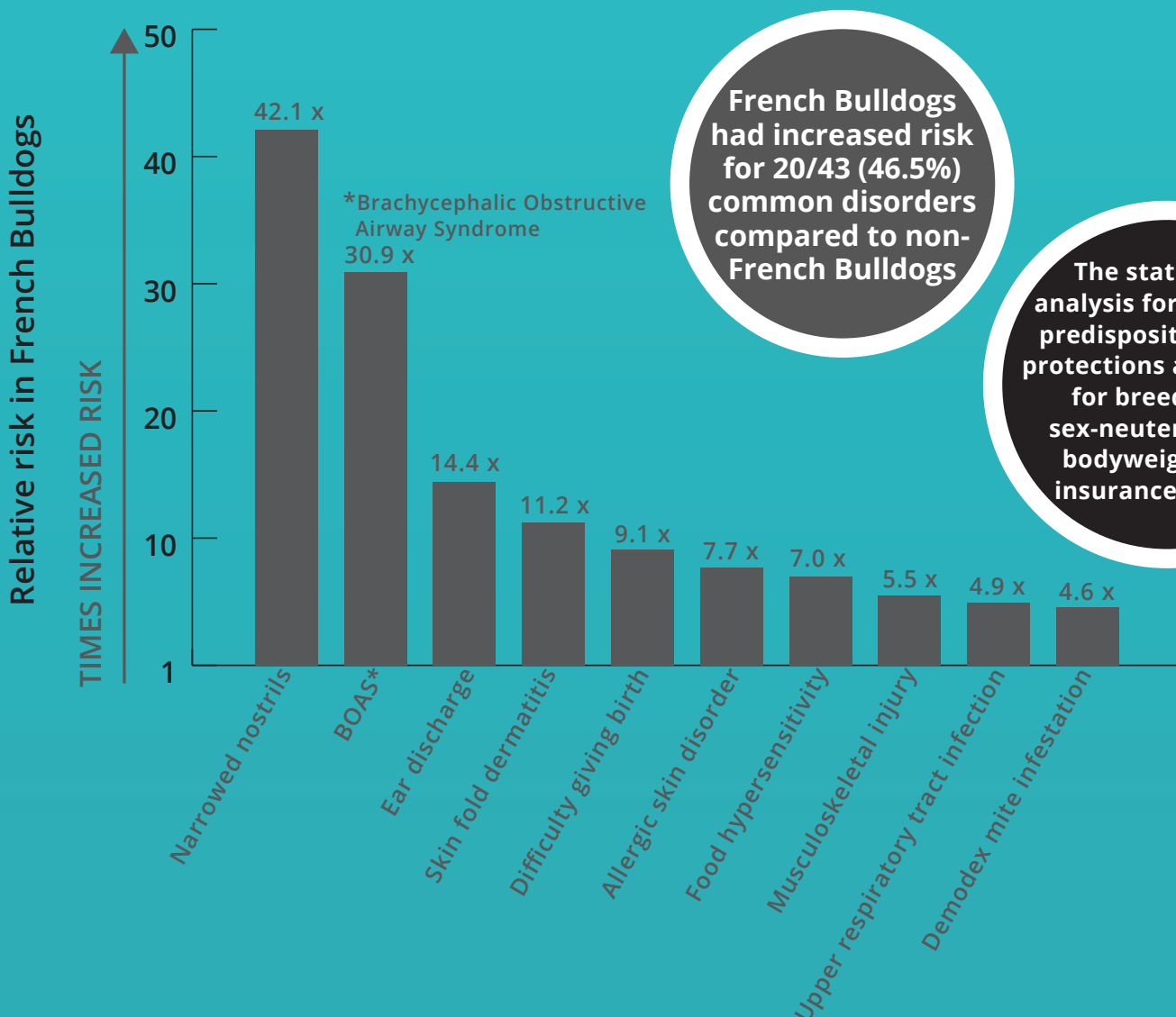
2,781
French Bulldogs
21,850
non-French Bulldogs

Average age of dogs in the study

1.5 years
French Bulldogs
4.5 years
non-French Bulldogs

Disorder Predispositions

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

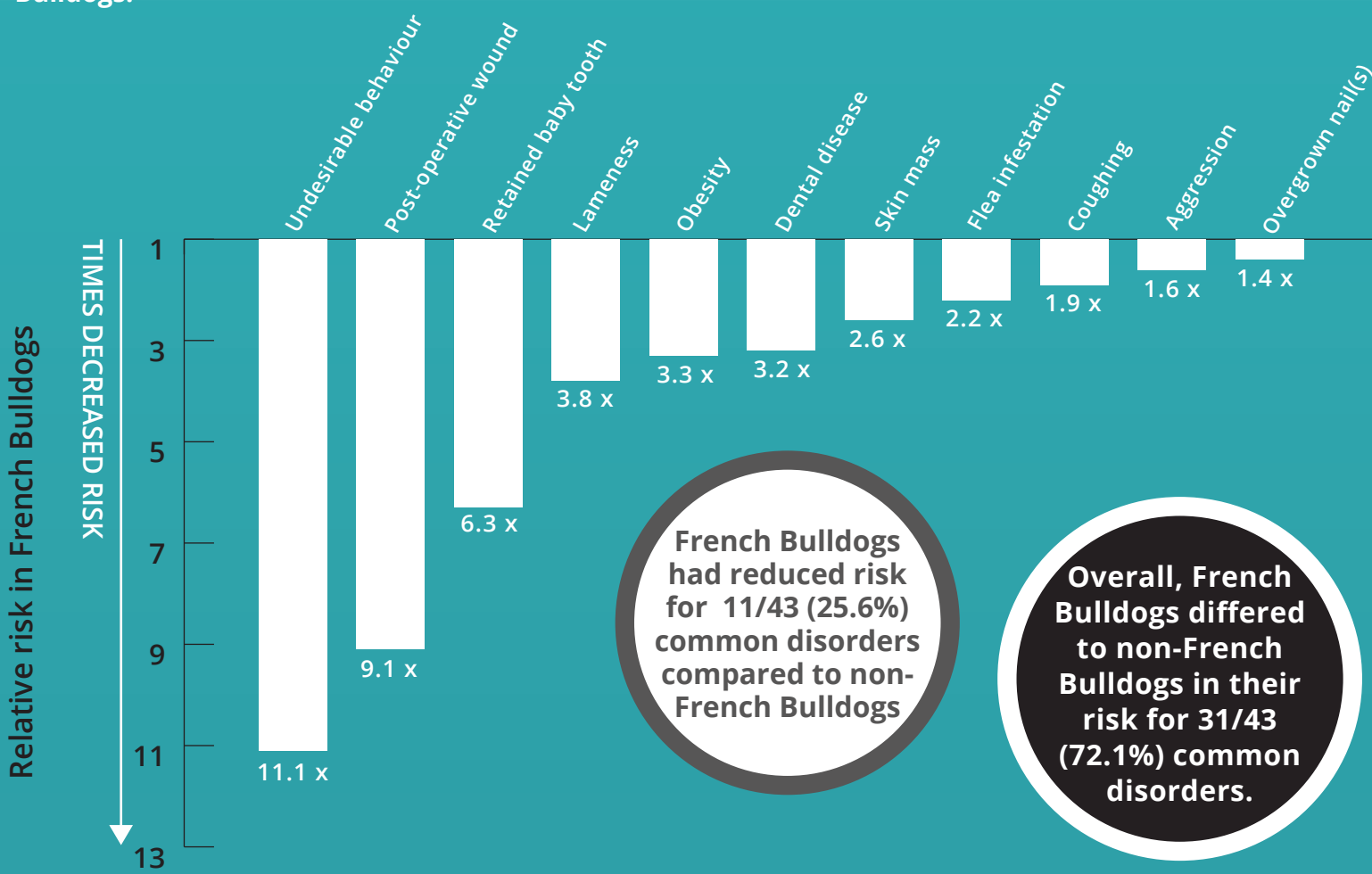


French Bulldogs had increased risk for 20/43 (46.5%) common disorders compared to non-French Bulldogs

The statistical analysis for disorder predispositions and protections accounted for breed, age, sex-neuter status, bodyweight and insurance status.

Disorder Protections

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



French Bulldogs had reduced risk for 11/43 (25.6%) common disorders compared to non-French Bulldogs

Overall, French Bulldogs differed to non-French Bulldogs in their risk for 31/43 (72.1%) common disorders.

CONCLUSIONS:

In terms of their health, French Bulldogs can no longer be considered as a "typical" dog.

Many of the health problems identified in French Bulldogs are associated with their extreme shape. Shifting the breed towards a more moderate body shape (conformation) may reduce these problems.

The public should follow the advice of breed clubs, veterinary bodies and charities to "stop and think before buying a flat-faced dog."

[CLICK TO READ THE FULL STUDY](#)

O'Neill et al. (2021) "French Bulldogs differ to other dogs in the UK in propensity for many common disorders: a VetCompass study" Canine Medicine and Genetics
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.