The English Cocker Spaniel has been one of the most popular dog breeds in the UK for many decades. A previous VetCompass paper* reported on the most common disorders of the breed. This newer study went further to identify which disorders English Cocker Spaniels in the UK are either predisposed to or protected from, compared to all remaining dogs not of this breed.

The study analysed anonymised veterinary clinical records from the VetCompass Programme.

The average age of both English Cocker Spaniels and non-English Cocker Spaniels in the study was 4.4 years.

The average bodyweight of English Cocker Spaniels was 14.8kg compared to 13.6kg for non-English Cocker Spaniels.

This study identified that English Cocker Spaniels are predisposed to ear and eye disorders that may be related to the pendulous ears and loose skin on the face that is common in the breed.

These results can aid dog owners, breeders and veterinarians to better monitor health in English Cocker Spaniels, and promote early diagnosis with improved prognosis.

Disorder Predispositions and Protections

A predisposition describes any disorder with increased risk in English Cocker Spaniels compared to non-English Cocker Spaniels. A protection describes any disorder with reduced risk in English Cocker Spaniels compared to non-English Cocker Spaniels.

Disorders

- Ear discharge
- Dry eye
- Musculoskeletal pain
- Skin disorders
- Ear disorder
- Hair loss disorder
- Foreign body
- Mammary masses
- Post-operative complications
- Pagoplasma
- Pruritus
- Skin cyst
- Pododermatitis
- Retained deciduous tooth
- Pododermatitis (traumatic paw)
- Aplasia (hair loss)
- Alopecia (hair loss)
- Allergy

English Cocker Spaniels are protected from several skin-related disorders including allergy, alopecia, dermatitis, and pododermatitis.

Conclusions

The results can help breeding organisations establish key priorities for the health-based reforms of the English Cocker Spaniel.

English Cocker Spaniels are predisposed to ear and eye disorders that may be related to the pendulous ears and loose skin on the face that is common in the breed.

These results can aid dog owners, breeders and veterinarians to better monitor health in English Cocker Spaniels and promote earlier diagnosis with improved prognosis.