

# ENGLISH COCKER SPANIELS IN THE UK: DISORDER PREDISPOSITIONS AND PROTECTIONS



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.

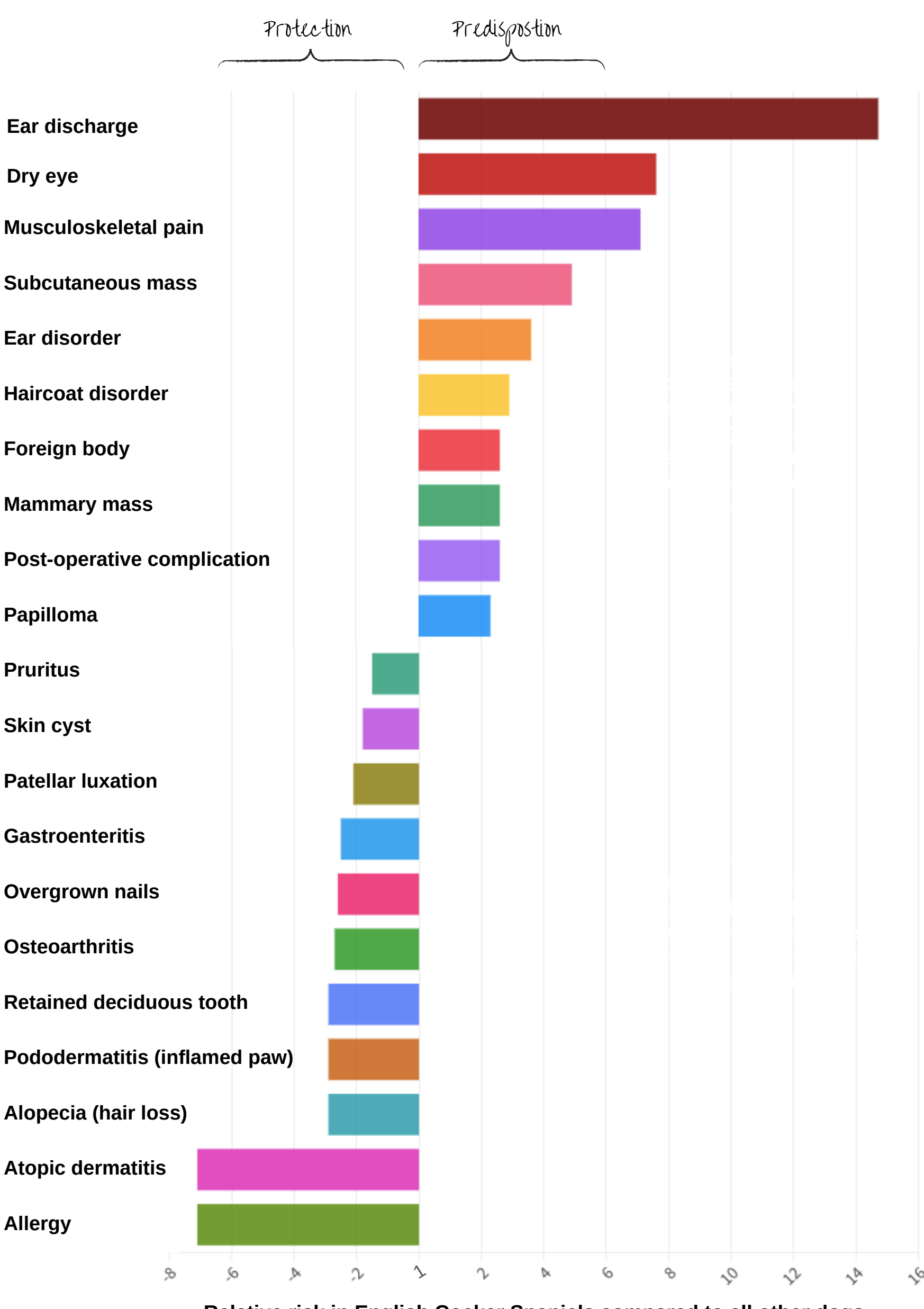
The analysis included 2,510 English Cocker Spaniels and 7,813 non-English Cocker Spaniels

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

## Disorder Predispositions and Protections

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



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.

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

## Conclusions

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

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

[CLICK TO READ THE FULL STUDY](#)

Engdahl et al. (2023) "English Cocker Spaniels under primary veterinary care in the UK: disorder predispositions and protections" Canine Genetics and Medicine

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.