

Life expectancy of cats in the UK



Life tables show the average remaining life expectancy from a range of specified ages in a given population. Life tables can promote improved understanding of general health. For example, when comparing two populations at the same age, lower remaining life expectancy in one group may imply generally lower health. Life tables can also help cat owners to predict typical remaining lifespan for their own cats or for cats they may be considering acquiring.

This VetCompass study explored mortality data from cats under veterinary care in the UK during 2019.

7,936

The number of cat deaths included in the study.

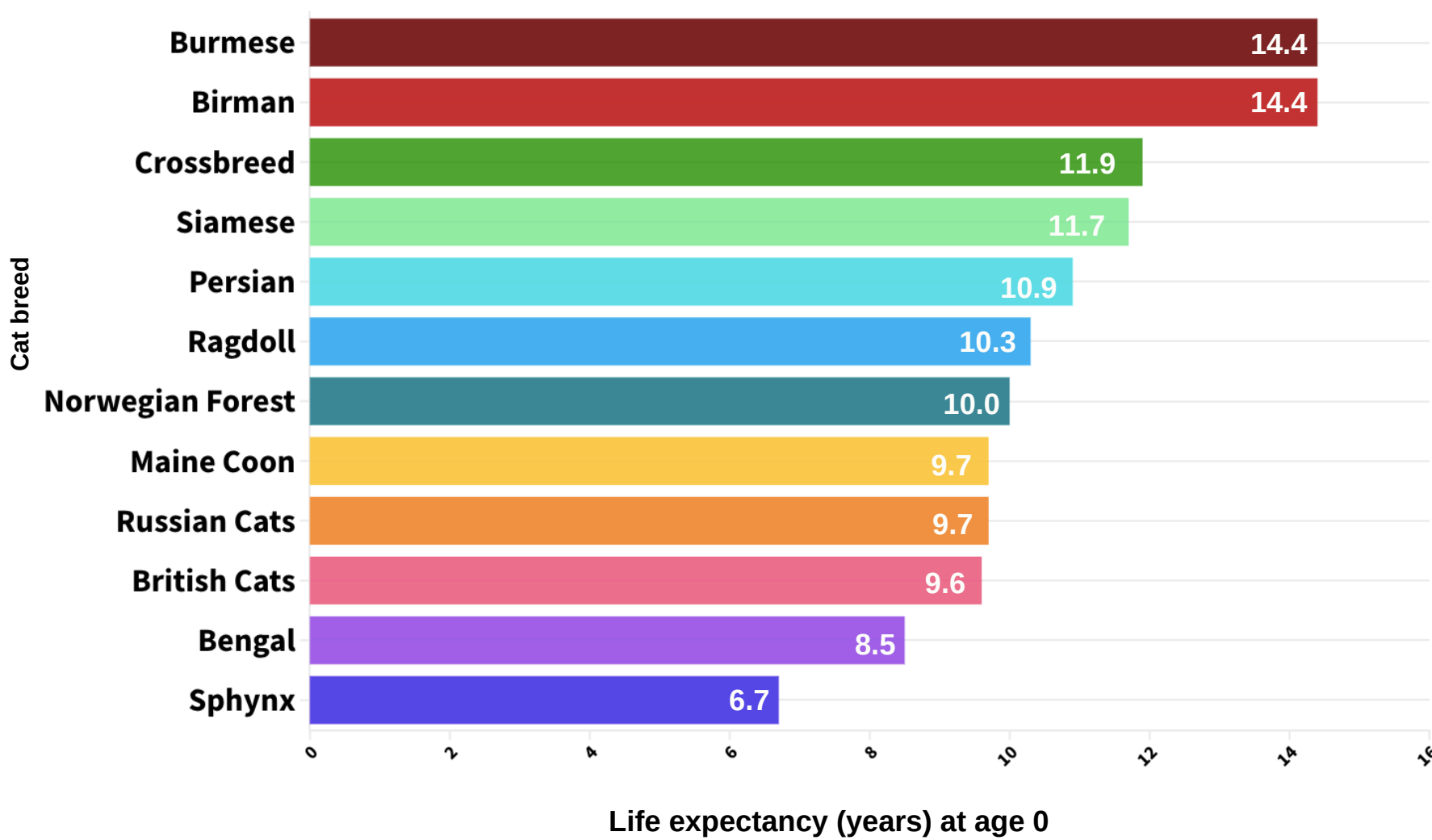
From age 0:
Longest-lived breed: Burmese 14.4 years
Shortest-lived breed: Sphynx 6.7 years

11.7 years

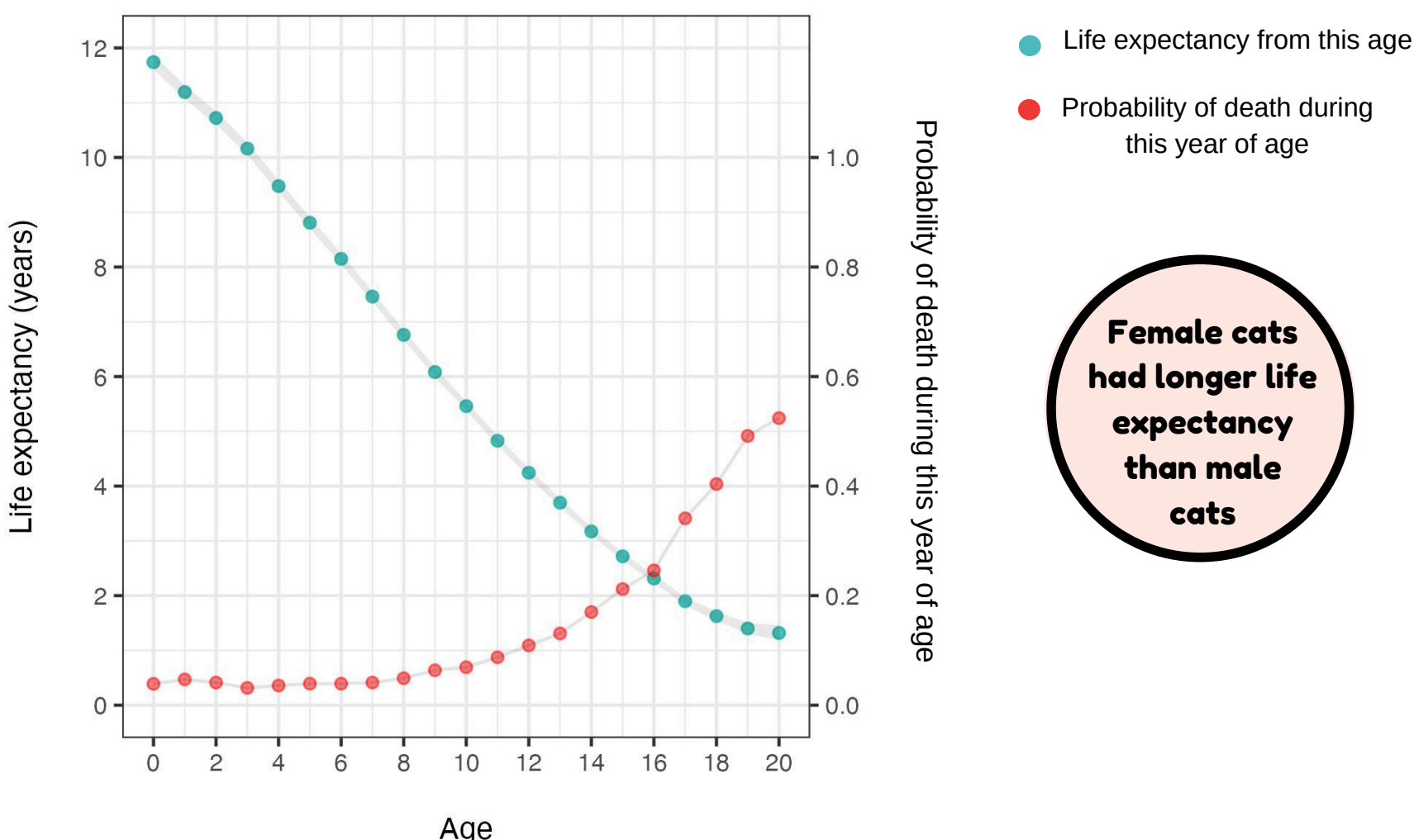
Average life expectancy from age 0 for cats in the UK



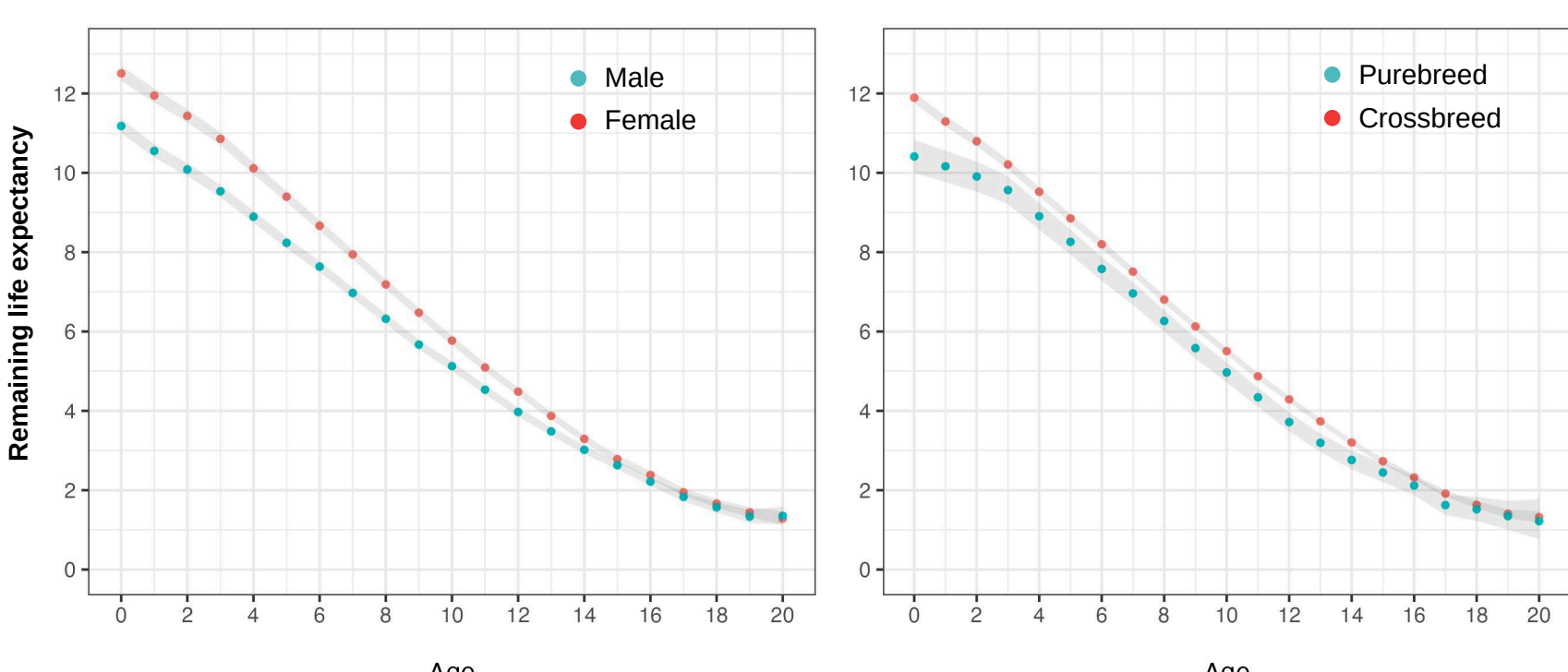
Life expectancy of common cat breeds



Remaining life expectancy by age of cat



Life expectancy by sex and breed of cat



Cat life tables help owners understand the typical remaining life expectancies for their cat from different ages

Female cats had 1.3 years longer life expectancy than male cats.

Female 12.5 years
Male 11.2 years

Conclusions

Crossbred cats had 1.5 years longer life expectancy than purebred cats.

Crossbred 11.9 years
Purebred 10.4 years

Life expectancy varied widely between breeds. Burmese and Birman had the highest life expectancy. Sphynx had the lowest life expectancy.



[CLICK TO READ THE FULL STUDY](#)

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.