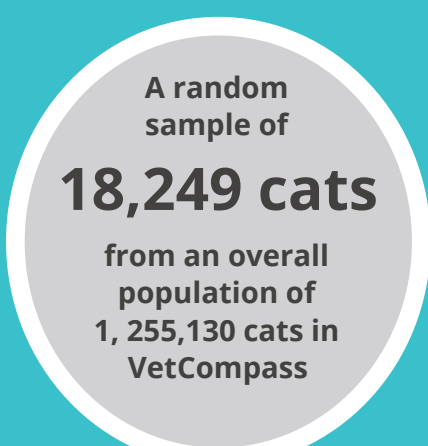


Cats are popular companion animals in the UK. The human-animal bond shared between cats and their owners can be beneficial to both people and cats. To ensure a good quality of life for their cats, it is important for owners to understand which medical conditions may commonly affect their pets so they can take a proactive role in the healthcare of their cats.

This study aimed to identify the most common disorders diagnosed in cats in the UK and explore how aging and male/female status affected these. This information can help owners take a more informed role in caring for their cats and help veterinary teams to focus on targeted preventative healthcare.



**Total number of cats in the study**



**Average age of cats in the study**



## Most common cat breeds

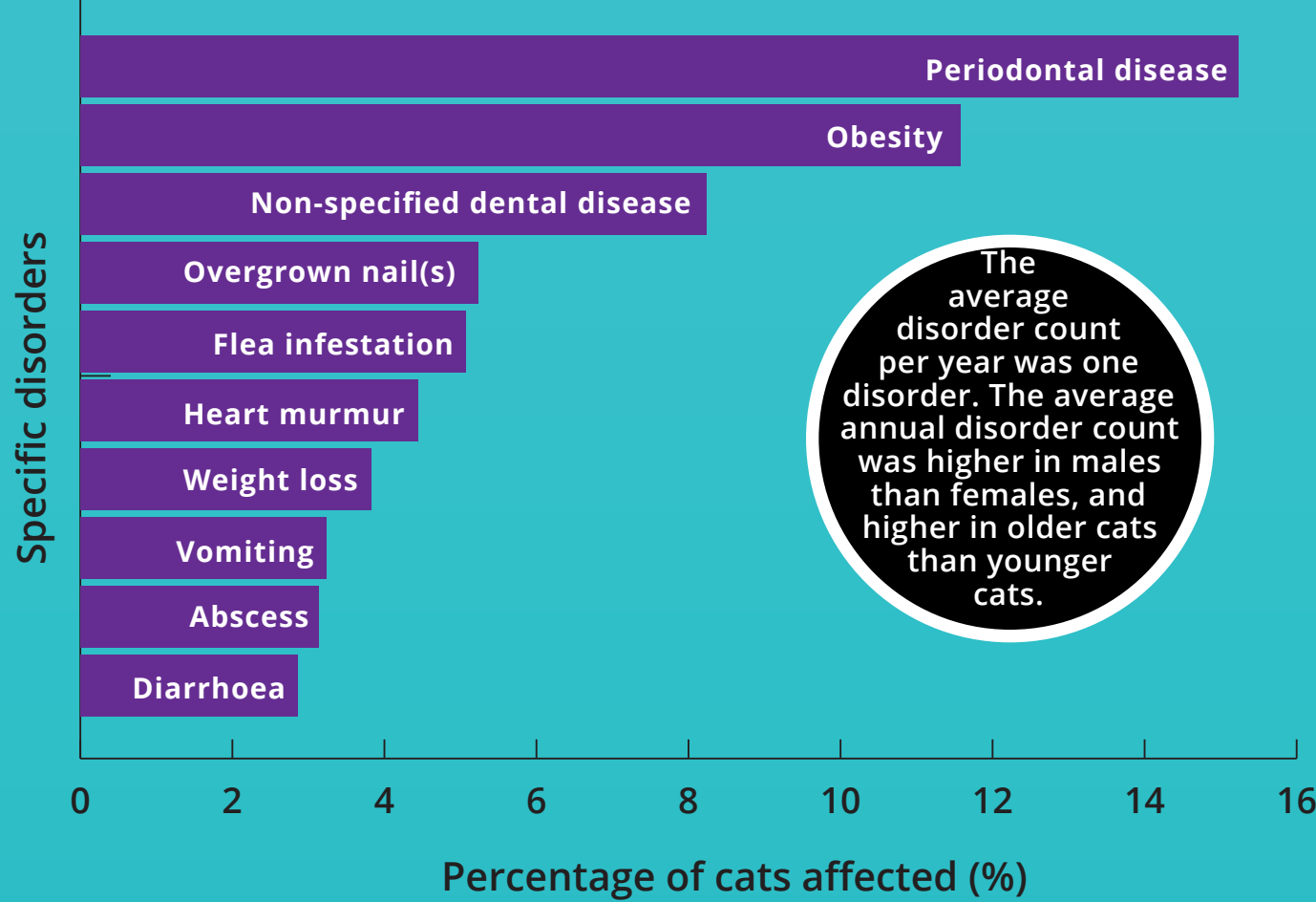
**British Short Hair (3.01%)** was the most common cat breed in the UK, followed by **Ragdoll (1.82%)** and **Bengal (1.22%)**. Other common breeds included **Maine Coon (0.93%)**, **Persian (0.73%)** and **Siamese (0.68%)**.



**Crossbreed cats (moggies) represented 87.98% of cats in the study.**

## Most common cat disorders

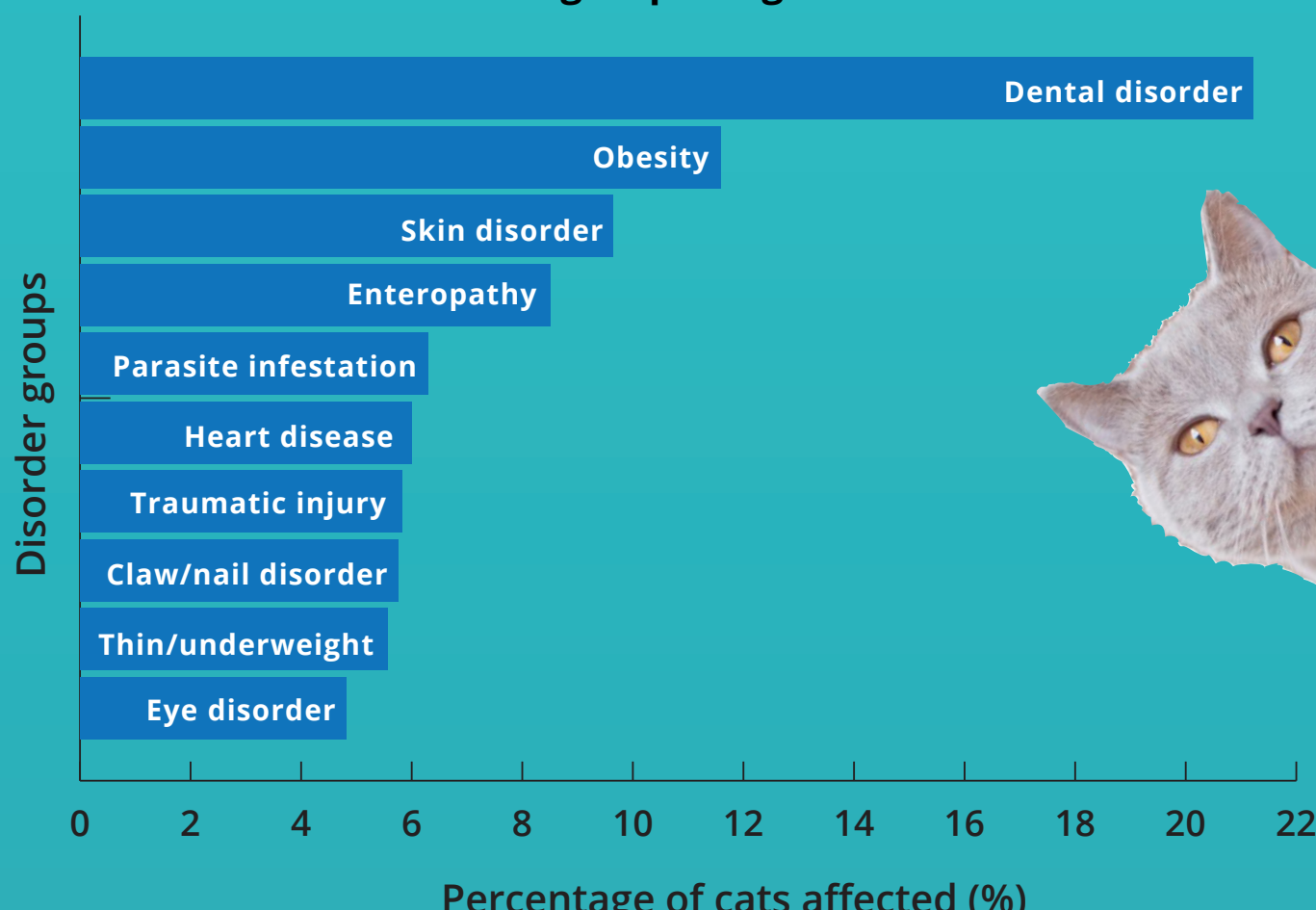
**Most common specific disorders diagnosed in cats in the UK**



The average disorder count per year was one disorder. The average annual disorder count was higher in males than females, and higher in older cats than younger cats.

## Most common cat disorder groups

**Most common disorder groups diagnosed in cats in the UK**



**Female cats** had higher frequency than males for six specific disorders:

- poor quality of life
- post-operative wound complication
- over-grooming
- flea bite hypersensitivity
- overgrown nail(s)
- hyperthyroidism

**Male cats** had higher frequency than females for eight specific disorders:

- periodontal disease
- road traffic accident (RTA)
- heart murmur
- lameness
- obesity
- abscess
- wound
- cat bite injury

**Younger cats (under 8 years)** had higher frequency than older cats for **four disorders: cat bite injury, flea infestation, road traffic accident and post-operative wound complication**. **Older cats (over 8 years)** had higher frequency for **23 disorders**.



## Conclusions

Several disorders were noted with differential risk by age and male/female, suggesting some useful welfare opportunities for veterinary professionals to target tailored veterinary care to specific higher risk groups of cats.

The high frequency of potentially preventable disorders such as dental disease and obesity suggests the value of improved veterinary communication and education of cat-owners.

These results can assist veterinarians, veterinary nurses, cat breeders and cat owners by providing an evidence base to understand and predict disorder occurrence, and to identify key health and welfare opportunities for their cats.

**CLICK TO READ THE FULL STUDY**

O'Neill et al. (2023) "Commonly diagnosed disorders in domestic cats in the UK, and their associations with sex and age", Journal of Feline Medicine and Surgery, DOI: 10.1177/1098612X231155016

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.