

# Life expectancy of dogs in the UK

Life tables show life expectancy from a range of specified ages in a given population. Life tables can promote improved understanding of general health: when comparing two populations at the same age, lower life expectancy in one group may imply generally lower health.

This VetCompass study explored data from randomly selected deaths in dogs under veterinary care in the UK during 2016.



Number of dog deaths in study:

30,563

Longest- and shortest-lived breeds from age 0:

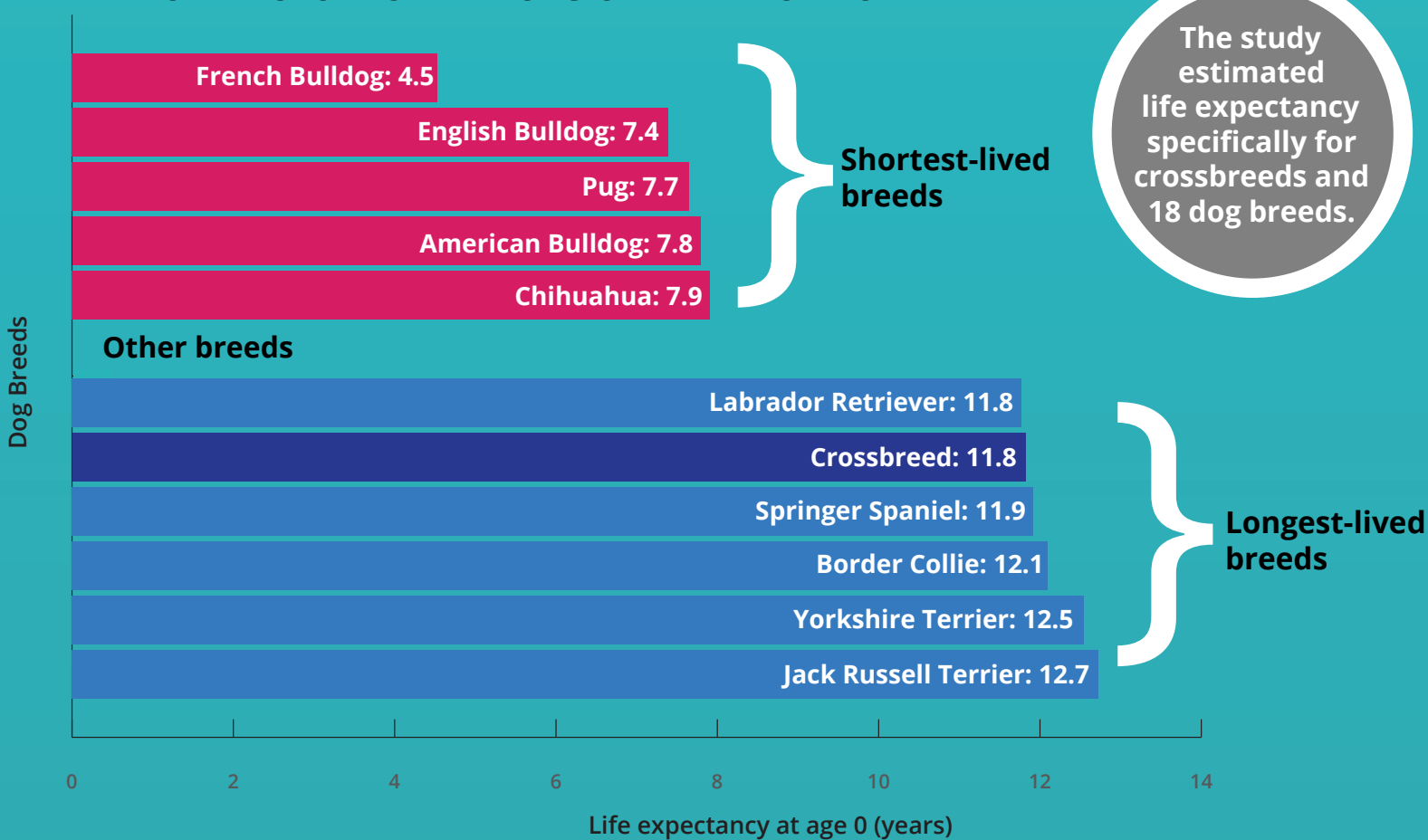
Jack Russell Terrier (12.7 years) and French Bulldog (4.5 years)

Average life expectancy at age 0 for dogs overall:

11.2 years

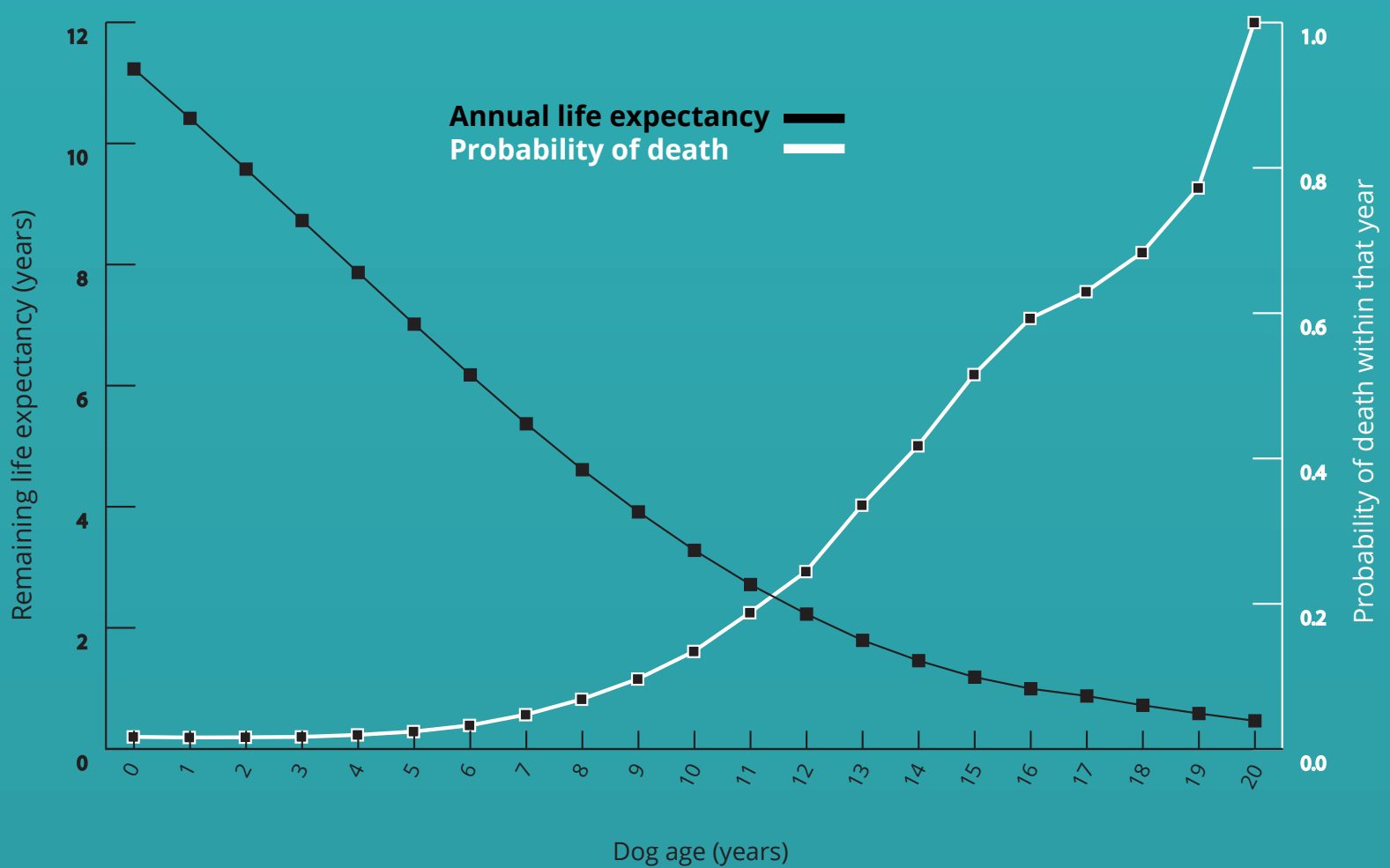
## Does life expectancy (years) differ between dog breeds?

### BREEDS WITH SHORTEST AND LONGEST LIFE EXPECTANCY



The study estimated life expectancy specifically for crossbreeds and 18 dog breeds.

## Remaining life expectancy by age of dog



From age 0, female dogs (11.4 years) had longer life expectancy than male dogs (11.1 years).



## CONCLUSIONS:

- Dog life tables can help owners to better understand the typical remaining life expectancies for their dog from different ages.
- Some popular flat-faced (brachycephalic) breeds have worryingly low life expectancy at age 0. This may be associated with poor overall health. Owners are encouraged to "stop and think before buying a flat-faced dog".
- Life expectancy varies widely between breeds. Jack Russell Terrier and Yorkshire Terrier have the highest life expectancy.

## CLICK TO READ

Teng et al. (2022) "Life tables of annual life expectancy and mortality for companion dogs in the United Kingdom" Scientific Reports

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.