

# Pugs in the UK: Overall health

Pugs are extremely popular in the UK, often because of their 'cute' or 'unique' looks. Paradoxically, their extreme body shape (conformation) that makes the breed so popular has also been linked to several serious health issues that can severely limit their quality of life. This study aimed to generate evidence on the overall welfare impact from being a Pug by comparing the health of Pugs in the UK to dogs not of this breed.



Number of dogs in study

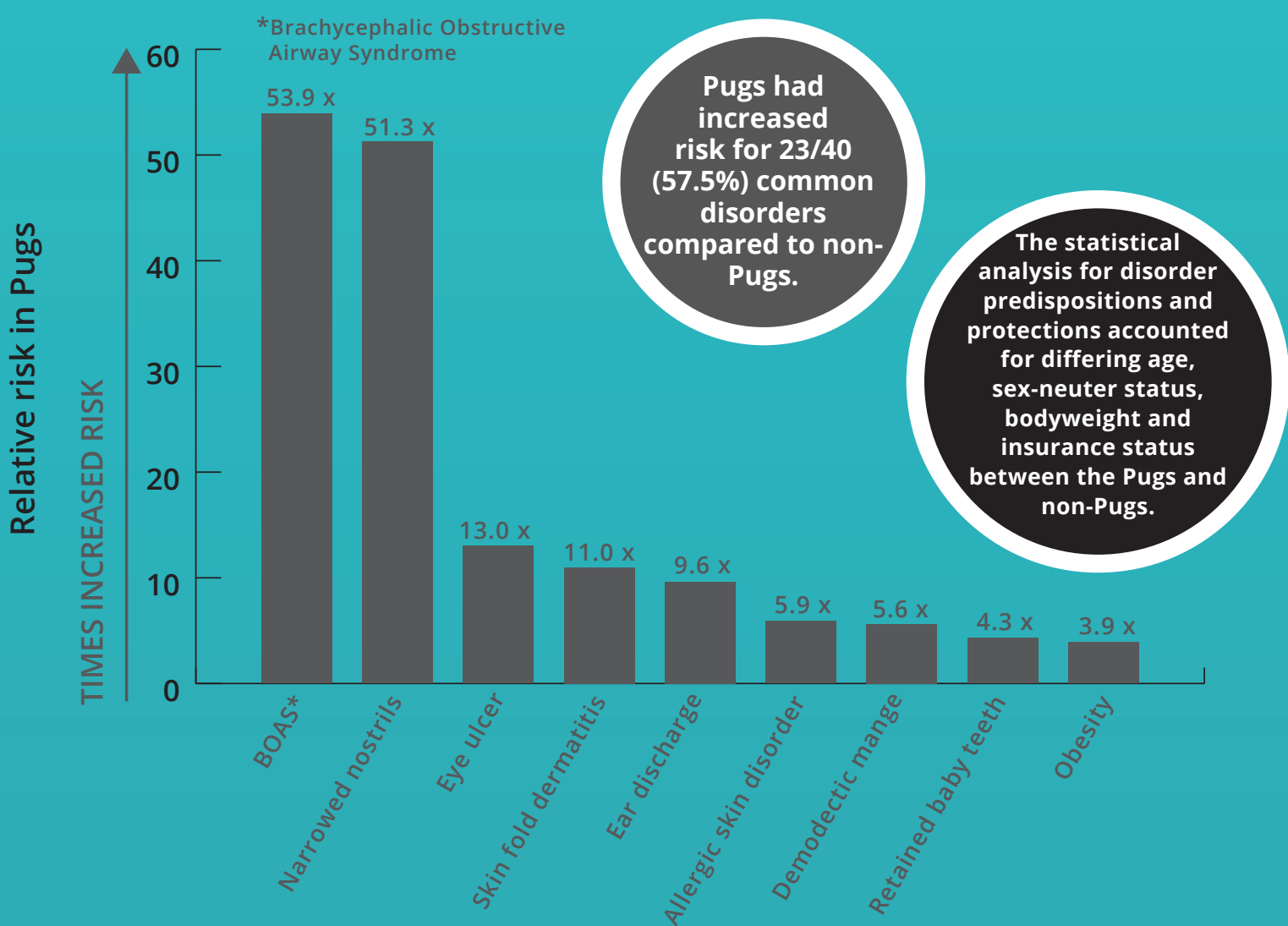
4,308 Pugs  
21,835 non-Pugs

Average age of dogs in the study

2.4 years Pugs  
4.4 years non-Pugs

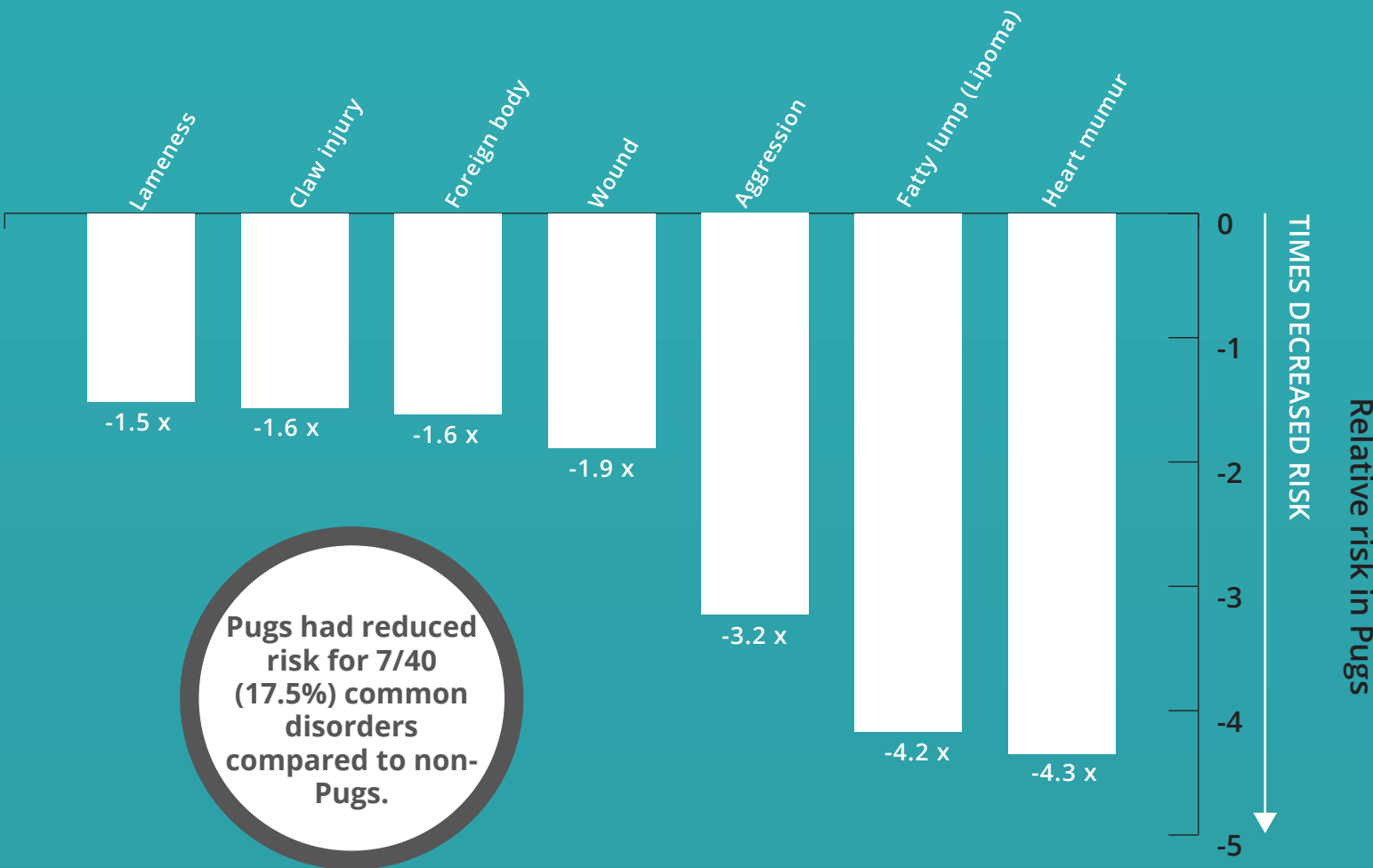
## Disorder Predispositions

A predisposition describes any disorder with increased risk in Pugs compared with non-Pugs. Awareness of predispositions helps owners when deciding what type of dog to get and which disorders to look out for in dogs already owned.



## Disorder Protections

A protection describes any disorder with reduced risk in Pugs compared with non-Pugs.



## CONCLUSIONS:

The Pug can no longer be considered as a typical dog from a health perspective.

Many of the health problems identified in Pugs are associated with their extreme body shape (conformation). Shifting the breed towards a less extreme body shape may reduce these problems for many Pugs in the future.

For now, the public should follow the advice of breed clubs, veterinary bodies and charities to "stop and think before buying a flat-faced dog."

[CLICK TO READ THE FULL STUDY](#)

O'Neill et al. (2022) "Health of Pug Dogs in the UK: disorder predispositions and protections" Canine Medicine and Genetics

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.