Hypothyroidism is a hormonal disorder in dogs, resulting from a deficiency of thyroid hormones. Dogs with hypothyroidism may show weight gain, lethargy, hair loss, sensitivity to cold temperatures and may display a ‘tragic’ facial expression. Hypothyroidism is a life-long, but rarely life-limiting condition that can be easily managed with oral treatment.

Hypothyroidism is easily managed with oral supplementation of levothyroxine so early diagnosis is important to improve the welfare of affected dogs.

This study aimed to investigate the frequency of diagnosis of hypothyroidism and to identify breeds at most risk in the UK. This information can help owners and veterinary teams to spot cases of hypothyroidism earlier and begin treatment sooner.

**Breed risk of hypothyroidism**

The risk of hypothyroidism increased with age. Neutered male dogs were 1.31 times more likely to develop hypothyroidism than entire female dogs. Insured animals had 2.27 times the risk of a diagnosis of hypothyroidism compared with uninsured.

**Conclusions:**

- Neutered male (x 1.31) and female dogs (x 1.46) had increased risk of having hypothyroidism compared to entire female dogs.
- Insured dogs had 1.97 times the risk of a diagnosis of hypothyroidism compared with uninsured.
- Purebred dogs had 1.49 times increased risk of hypothyroidism compared with crossbred dogs.

**Breed with the highest risk of hypothyroidism**

Breeds with the highest risk of hypothyroidism compared to crossbred dogs overall.

**Breed with the lowest risk of hypothyroidism**

Breeds with the lowest risk of hypothyroidism compared to crossbred dogs overall.

**Breed risk of hypothyroidism**

Breed with the highest risk of hypothyroidism compared to crossbred dogs overall.