

The **cranial cruciate ligament (CCL)** is located in a dog's knee (stifle joint) and is similar to the **anterior cruciate ligament (ACL)** in humans. The ligament can weaken over time until it eventually ruptures, causing pain and associated limping. CCL rupture can be treated either surgically or non-surgically. Many dogs with CCL rupture end up with long-term osteoarthritis.

This study aimed to identify factors associated with CCL rupture diagnosis in dogs.



Total number of dogs in the study

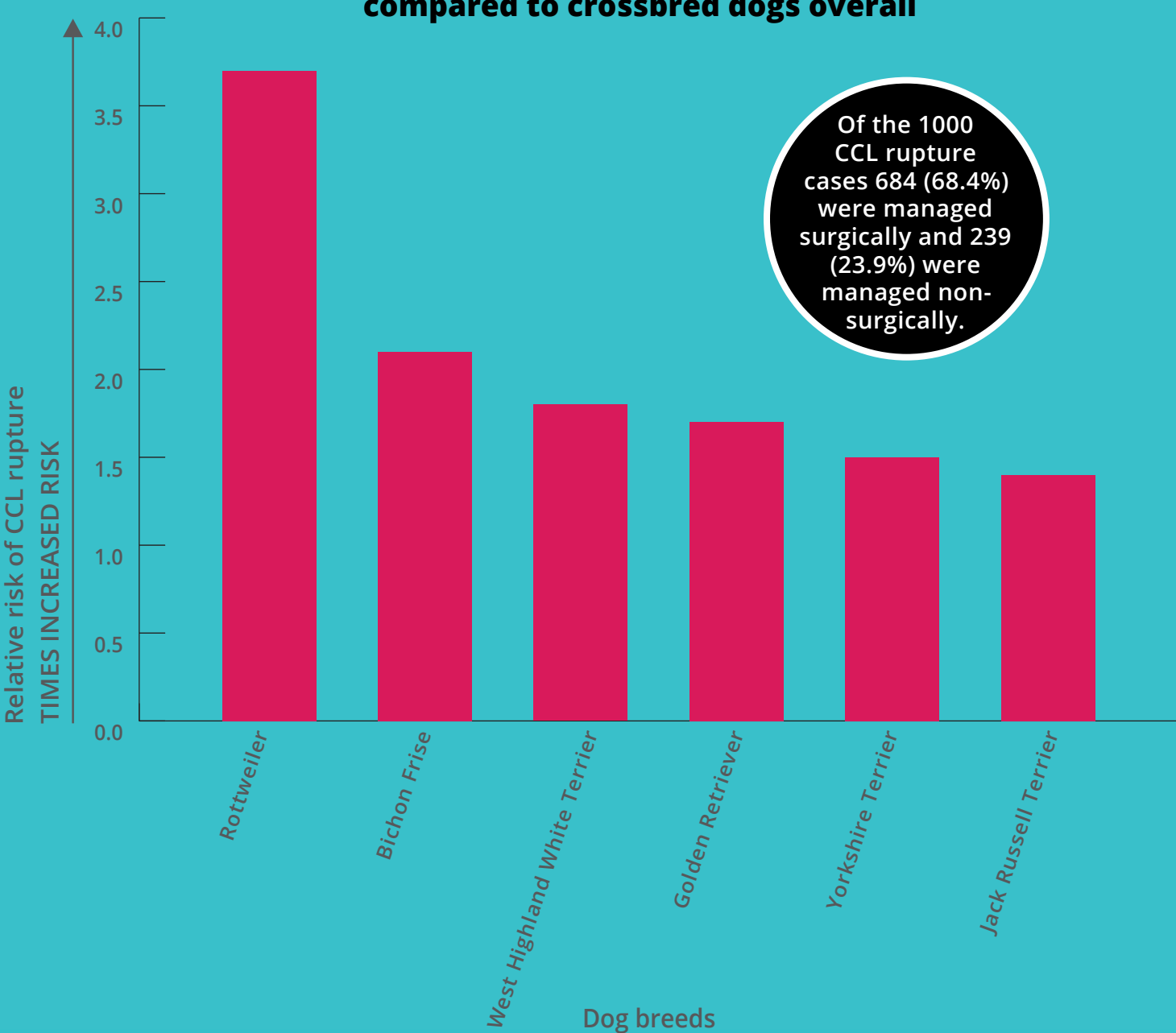


Average age of dogs in the study



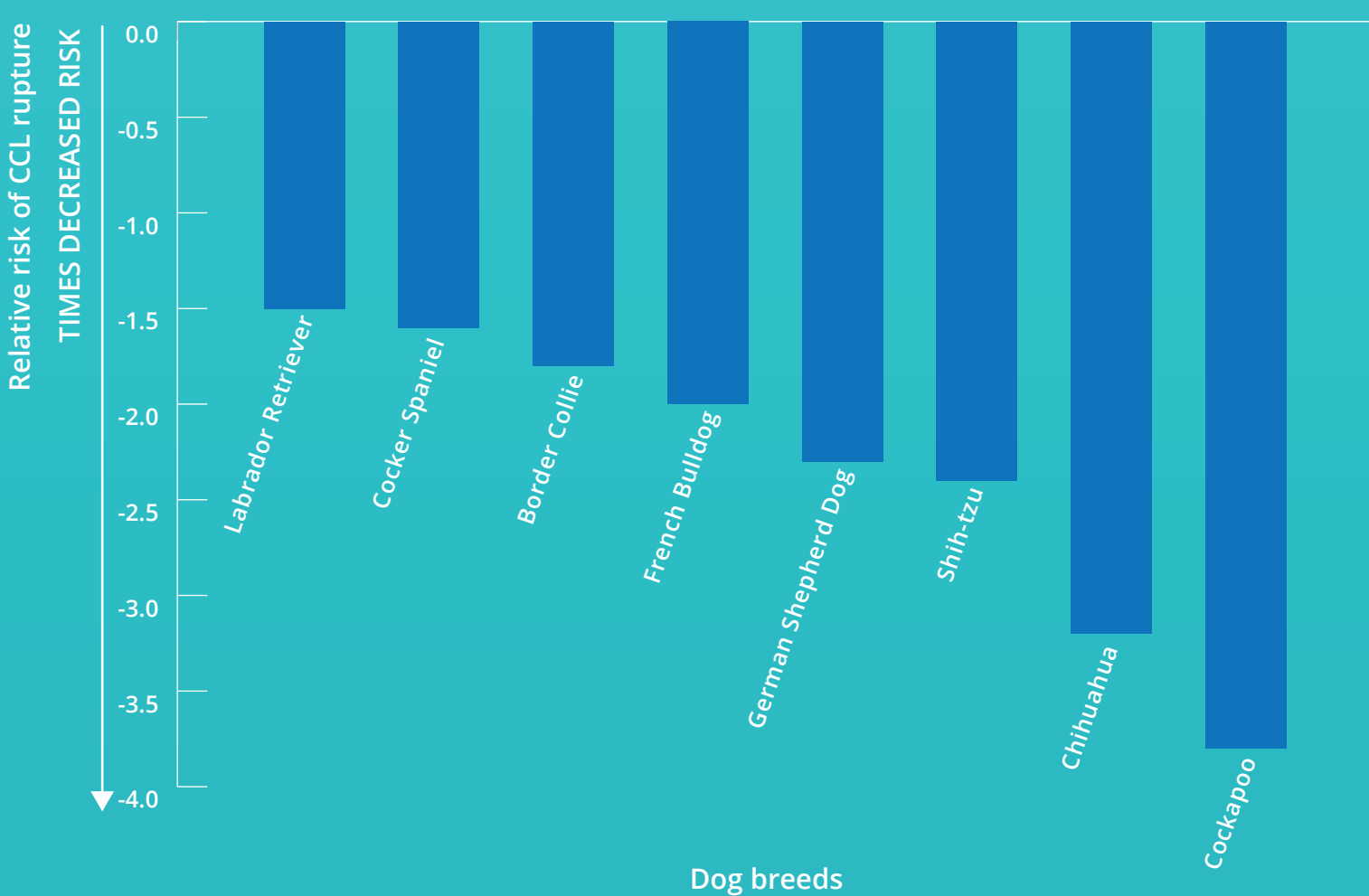
Breed risk of CCL rupture

Breeds with the highest risk of CCL rupture compared to crossbred dogs overall

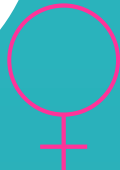


Of the 1000 CCL rupture cases 684 (68.4%) were managed surgically and 239 (23.9%) were managed non-surgically.

Breeds with the lowest risk of CCL rupture compared to crossbred dogs overall



Female neutered and male neutered dogs had 1.5x and 1.4x the risk of CCL rupture diagnosis respectively compared with female entire dogs.



Dogs aged 6 to 9 years had 3.2x the risk of CCL rupture diagnosis compared with dogs aged under 3 years.



Bodyweight was not associated with risk of CCL rupture diagnosis.

Conclusions

Absolute bodyweight was not associated with differing risk of CCL rupture diagnosis. Breed appears to be a major driving factor.

These results can help owners of high-risk breeds such as Rottweiler and Bichon Frise to understand that sudden lameness in a hindleg could indicate a ruptured cruciate ligament.

It is important to seek veterinary attention if you consider that your dog may have cruciate rupture.

[CLICK TO READ THE FULL STUDY](#)

Pegram et al. (2023) "Risk factors for unilateral cranial cruciate ligament rupture diagnosis and for clinical management in dogs under primary veterinary care in the UK"

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.