

Mammary tumours in cats are uncommon but can be highly aggressive when they do happen. Survival time from diagnosis has been previously reported at 8 to 12 months after diagnosis. Previous research using veterinary referral data suggested that breed, age and neuter status were associated with the risk of cats developing mammary tumours.

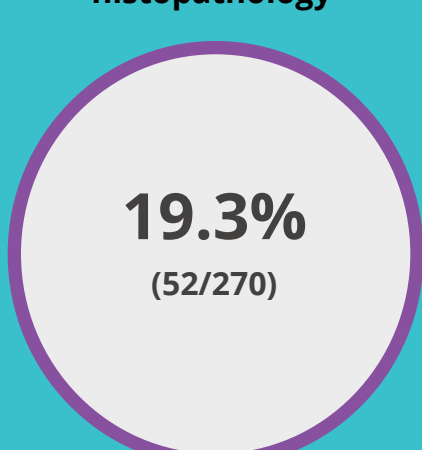
This study aimed to report the clinical signs and estimate the incidence and risk factors for mammary tumours in the wider population of female cats attending primary care practices in the UK. The study included 259,869 female cats under veterinary care in 2016.



Proportion of cats with mammary tumour diagnosed in 2016

Proportion of diagnoses that included histopathology

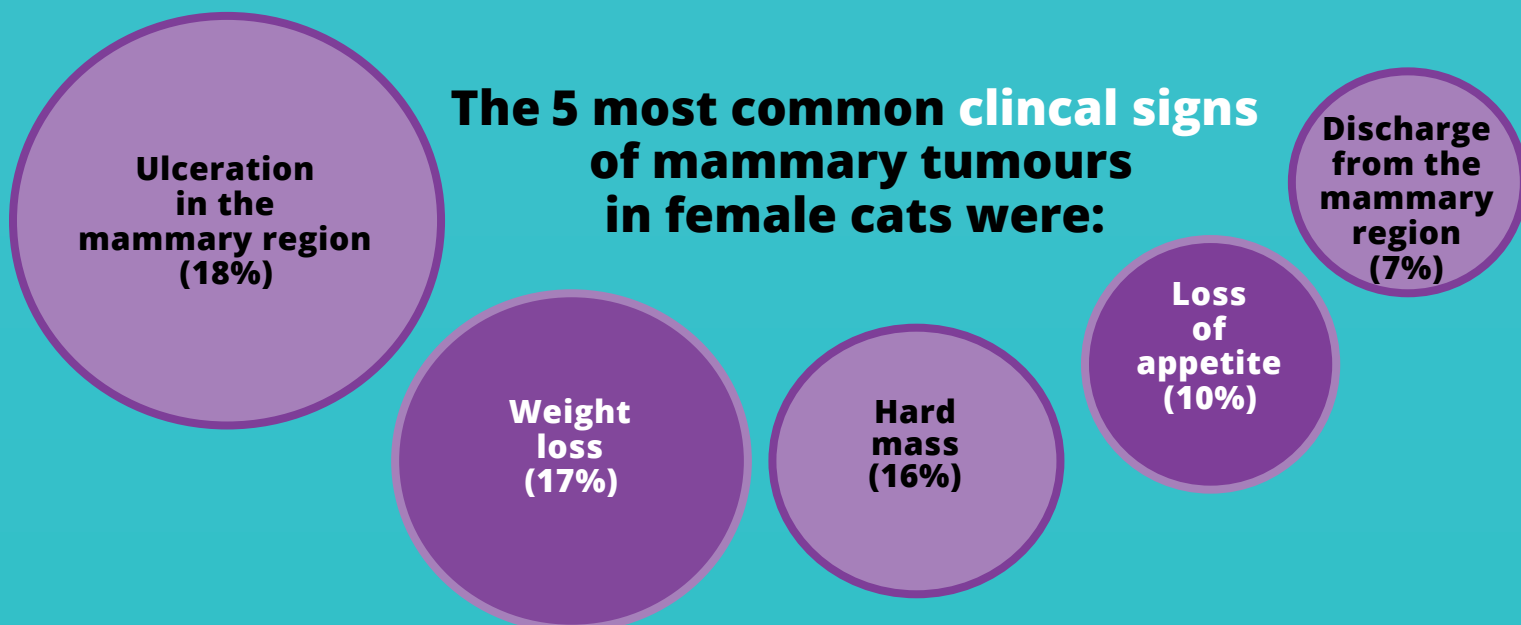
Average age at diagnosis for mammary tumours



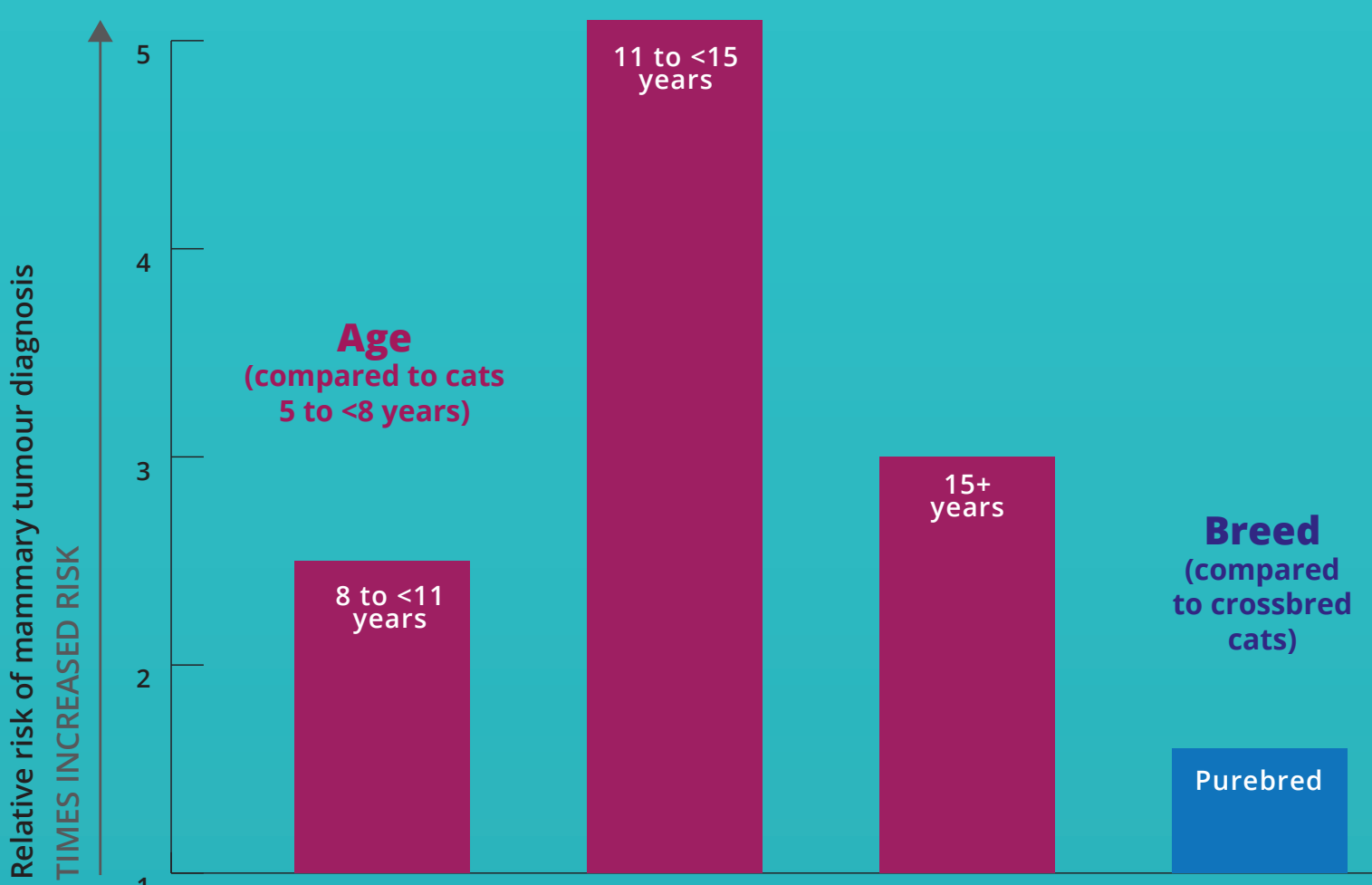
Clinical signs of mammary tumours

Cats generally presented with multiple clinical signs.

The 5 most common clinical signs of mammary tumours in female cats were:



Risk factors for mammary tumour diagnosis

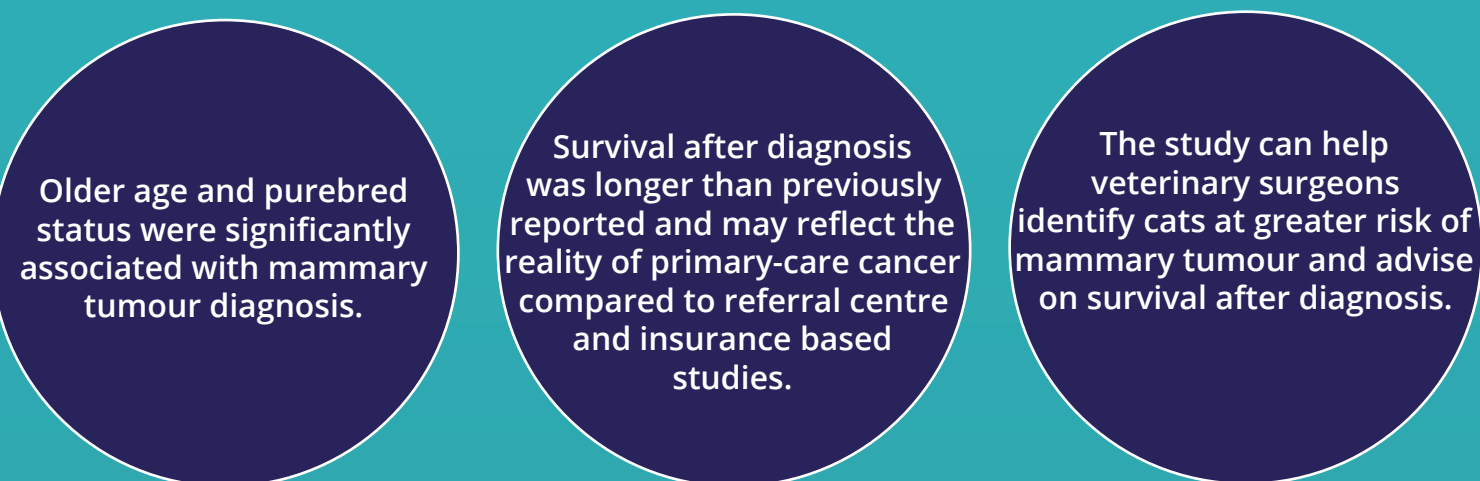


65% of cases did not undergo surgery. Of those that did receive surgery, the most common types were tumour/mass local removal (23%), followed by unilateral mastectomy (11%) and bilateral mastectomy (2%).



The average survival time after mammary tumour diagnosis was 18.7 months.

Conclusions



[CLICK TO READ THE FULL STUDY](#)

Pickard Price, P. et al. (2023) "Epidemiology and Risk Factors for Mammary Tumours in female cats"

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.