Demography of companion dogs in the UK: A VetCompass study

Most common dog breeds in the UK

- Staffordshire Bull Terrier
- Nondesigner crossbreed
- Dog breeds
- English Cocker Spaniel
- Jack Russell Terrier
- French Bulldog
- Chihuahua

**Most common dog breeds at ages under one year in 2019**

- Labrador Retriever
- Nondesigner-crossbred, Labrador
- Retriever and Jack Russell
- French Bulldog
- Chihuahua

**Average adult bodyweight**

- Labrador Retriever: 31.6kg
- Pug: 14.9kg
- English Bulldog: 14.9kg
- Chihuahua: 12.7kg
- Cocker Spaniel: 12.9kg

Conclusions

Understanding the demography of companion dogs in the UK is a highly popular companion animal species in the UK. This study aimed to explore the most common dog breeds in the UK or increasing popularity of breeds with extreme body shapes. To date, there has been limited information on which dog breeds are most common in the UK and sex in UK dogs during 2019. This study was part of the VetCompass™ Programme. Veterinary clinical records from the RVC VetCompass in 2019 were statistically compared to the population of dogs in the UK dog owners, raising awareness of extreme body shapes, and emerging new breeds. For extreme breeds, there are a huge number of mixed breeds (e.g. lab x poodle, collie x) or unspecified (e.g. non-designer crossbreed, mongrel) mixes of breeds overall in the UK.

**Frequency across all ages in 2019 (%)**

- Labrador Retriever: 6.9%
- Nondesigner-crossbred: 6.2%
- French Bulldog: 4.7%
- Chihuahua: 4.3%
- Cocker Spaniel: 4.2%

**Frequency under one year in 2019 (%)**

- Labrador Retriever: 24.0%
- Nondesigner-crossbred: 20.0%
- French Bulldog: 16.6%
- Chihuahua: 14.2%
- Cocker Spaniel: 12.4%

**Age-related differences**

- Neutered dogs were more likely to be lighter than entire dogs.
- Female dogs were heavier than male dogs.
- There were no statistically significant differences in bodyweight by sex in older dogs.

**Most recent changes**

- Purebred status includes types of dogs with blended hybrid names generated from two or more purebred breed terms (e.g., Cockapoo, Labradoodle).

**Ear type**

- Pendulous: 26.5%
- Semi-erect: 23.5%
- Erect: 22.0%
- V-shaped: 18.4%
- Drop: 8.5%

**Skull length**

- Short faced: 41.0%
- Mesaticephalic: 34.0%
- Normal: 20.0%
- Dolichocephalic: 5.0%

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