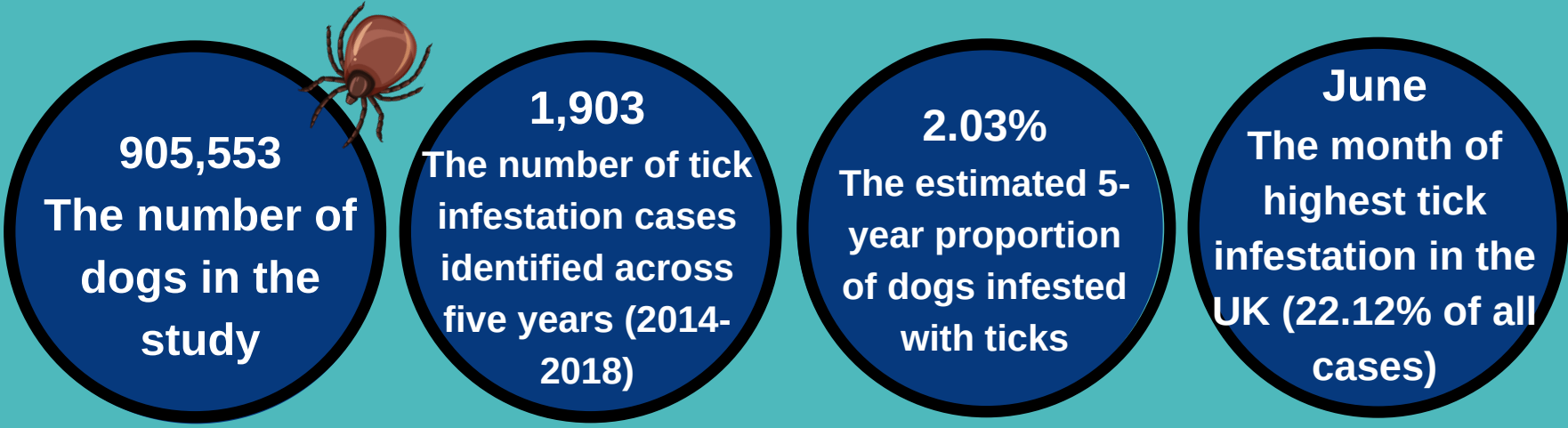


Tick Parasite Infestation in UK Dogs



Ticks are common parasites that attach to the skin of animals and humans, suck blood and can transmit several serious infectious diseases. Ticks survive best in grassy and wooded areas so transmission to humans and pets often happens during outdoor exercise. Climate change, expanded urban living and widening international movement all contribute to making tick-related disease more common. A better understanding of the epidemiology of tick infestation can help to protect health in both dogs and their owners.

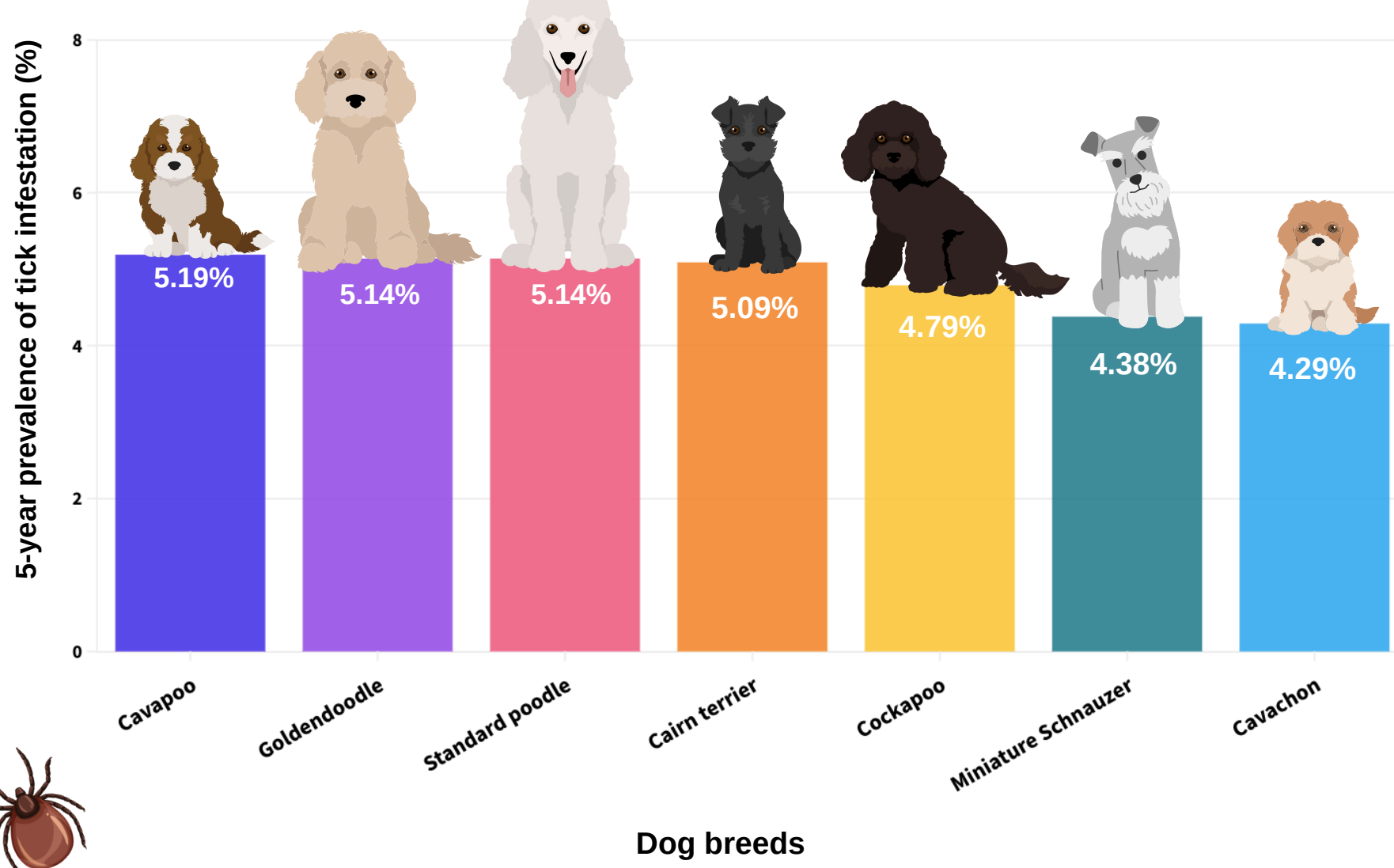
The current study aimed to report the frequency and risk factors for tick infestation in dogs under primary veterinary care in the UK. The study used information from anonymised veterinary clinical records in the VetCompass Programme.



Ticks: Dog breeds most commonly infested



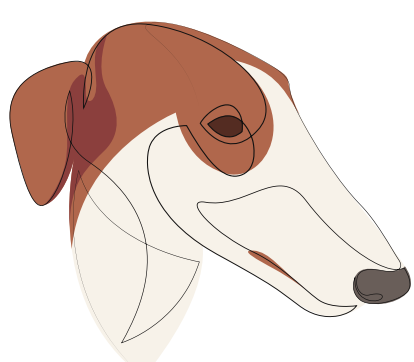
13.93kg
Average adult bodyweight of tick-infested dogs



Younger dogs had higher risk of tick infestation

Insured dogs had 1.54 times higher risk of tick infestation diagnosis

Male dogs had 1.24 times higher risk of tick infestation than females



V-shaped drop (1.23x) and pendulous (1.35x) ear carriage had greater risk compared to erect ear carriage.

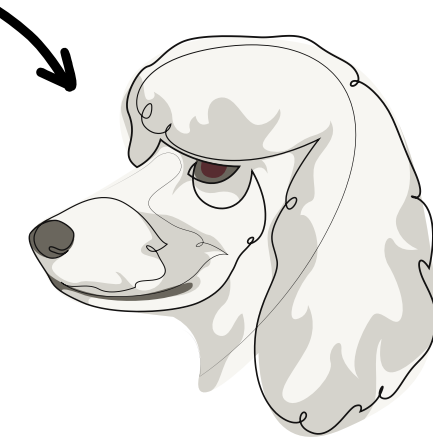


Designer-crossbred dogs had 1.81 times risk compared to general crossbred dogs.

Higher risk of tick infestation



Spaniel purebred dogs (1.74x) and Spaniel designer-crossbred dogs (2.33x) had higher risk compared to general crossbred dogs.



Poodle designer crossbred dogs had 2.16 times risk compared to general crossbred dogs.



Breeds with medium length coats had 2.20 times risk compared to short-coated breeds.



During veterinary consultations, veterinary teams should raise awareness with owners of potential tick infestation and the risk from diseases these ticks may transmit to dogs

UK dog owners should be vigilant in checking their pets for ticks, especially in dog types with higher risk. For example, dogs with pendulous ears, and curly or medium-length coats should be checked more closely.



[CLICK TO READ THE FULL STUDY](#)

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.