



# Cirneco dell'Etna Health Survey 2021

## **Cirneco dell'Etna Health Survey 2021 – OVERALL HEALTH SUMMARY**

The top three categories of diagnosis for health conditions reported in the survey were skin disorders (11% with 8 out of the 71 surveyed) reporting skin issue impacting their dog's health. 2 of these appear to be caused by reactions to vaccinations or spot on flea treatments, with the remaining 6 believed to be the result of environmental factors.

The second highest category of diagnosed health conditions was from Cancer or Tumours (7% with 5 out of the full survey of 74 dogs) 3 of these dogs succumbed to their diagnosis, 1, a 2-year-old dog with a brain tumour and 2 with cancer of the liver that passed between the ages of 10 and 12. The other 2 dogs did not disclose the site of the cancer or tumours but one was a benign Lipoma which was removed by the vets.

Dental issues were the third most prevalent source of health issues (4% with 3 out of the 71 surveyed). One of these was a single tooth extraction, with the remaining two consisted of tartar build up and gum inflammation due to environmental factors such as diet and lack of dental care prior to ownership.

<b>Health Category</b>	<b>Number Affected</b>	<b>Prevalence</b>
Skin and/or Coat	8	11%
Cancer/Tumour	5	7%
Dental	3	4%

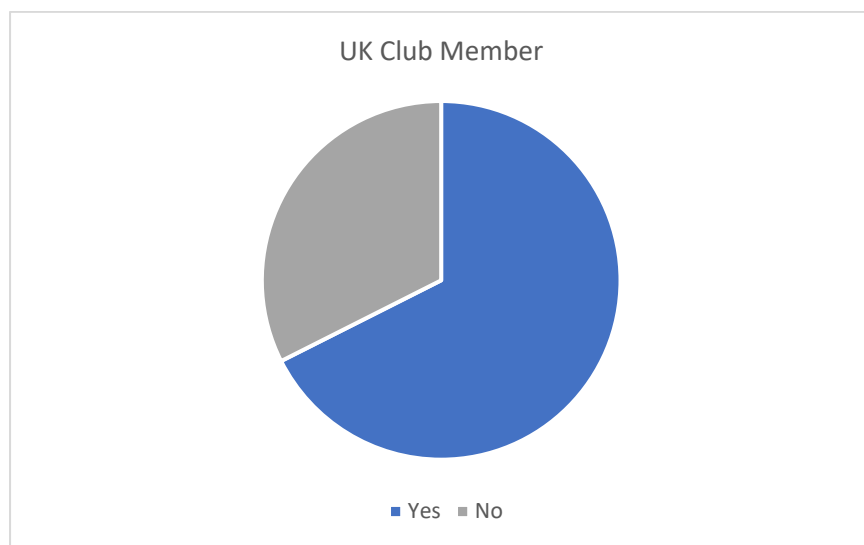
With over 90% of the owners surveyed only owning dogs for the last 9 years, and with only 7 dogs in the survey being over the age of 10 there is very limited data available for long term of life ending conditions at this time, however regular and ongoing surveys will continue to add to this data.

## Cirneco dell'Etna Health Survey 2021

The Cirneco dell'Etna health survey ran from 04/08/2021 to 30/11/2021. All respondents agreed to give the UK Cirneco dell'Etna Breed Club and the Kennel Club permission to use the collated data for their breed health research. In total we received 74 individual responses. As at July 21 the Kennel Club had 195 registered Cirnechi.

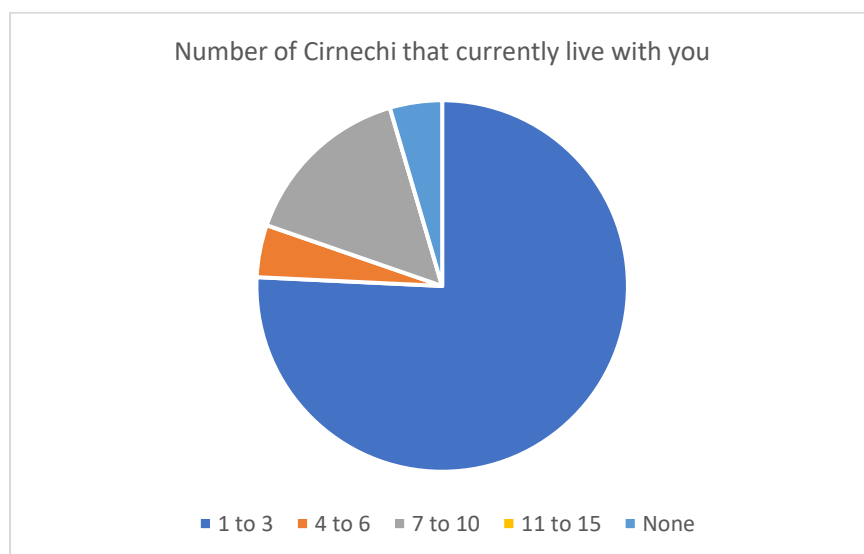
### Owner Information

Of the 74 respondents that participated in the survey 50 (67.6%) were members of the UK Cirneco dell'Etna Club, 24 (32.4%) were not members.



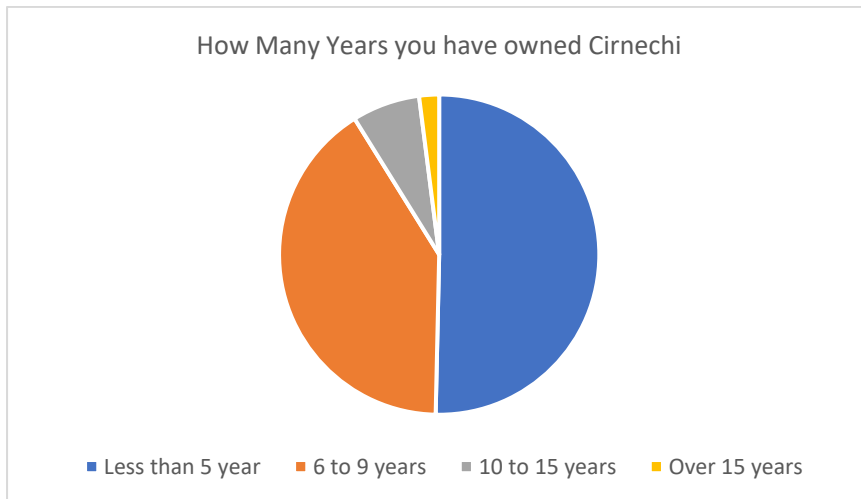
**Figure 1:** UK Cirneco dell'Etna Club member status included in the survey

Of the 74 respondents 58 (78.4%) own 1 to 3 Cirnechi, 3 (4.1%) own 4 to 6 Cirnechi, 3 (4.1%) own 7 to 10 Cirnechi and 10 (13.5%) currently do not own any Cirnechi.



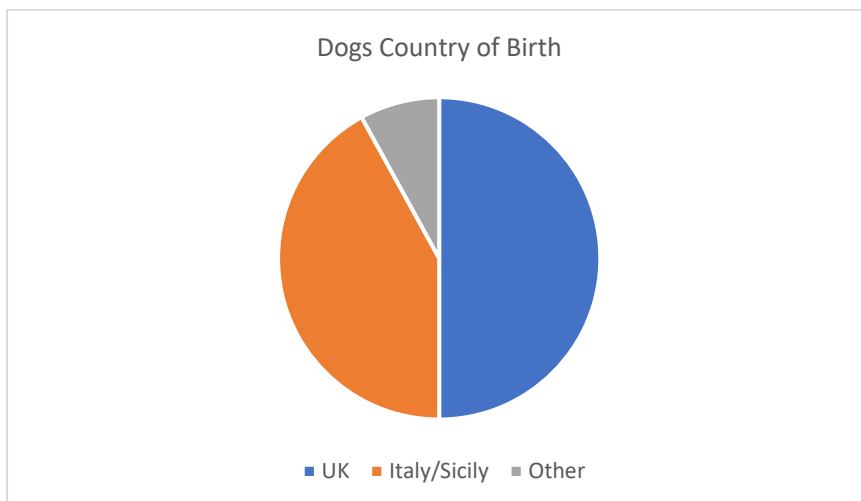
**Figure 2:** The number of Cirnechi that live in a respondents' household included in the survey

The survey asked how many years the 74 respondents have owned a Cirneco. 30 (40.50%) replied less than 5 years, 37 (50%) replied 6-9 years. 5 (6.8%) replied that they have owned Cirnechi for 10-15 years and 2 (2.7%) have owned Cirnechi for over 15 years.



**Figure 3:** How long the respondents in the survey have owned Cirnechi.

Of the 74 dogs surveyed 35 (50%) were born in the UK, 32 (42%) were born in Italy/Sicily and 7 were born in the following countries; 3 from Russia, 1 from Finland, 1 from Ukraine, 1 from Belgium and 1 from USA.

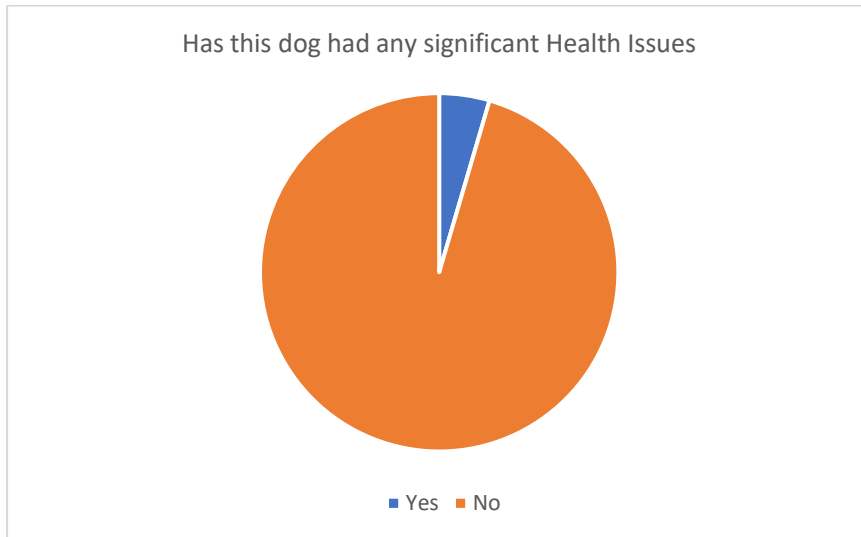


**Figure 4:** Country of birth for the surveyed dogs now living in the UK.

Of the 74 respondents 73 told us that 32 (43%) of the dogs in the survey were imported, 26 (36%) were from UK breeders, 8 (11%) were from their own breeding and 7 (10%) were from rehoming or rescue.

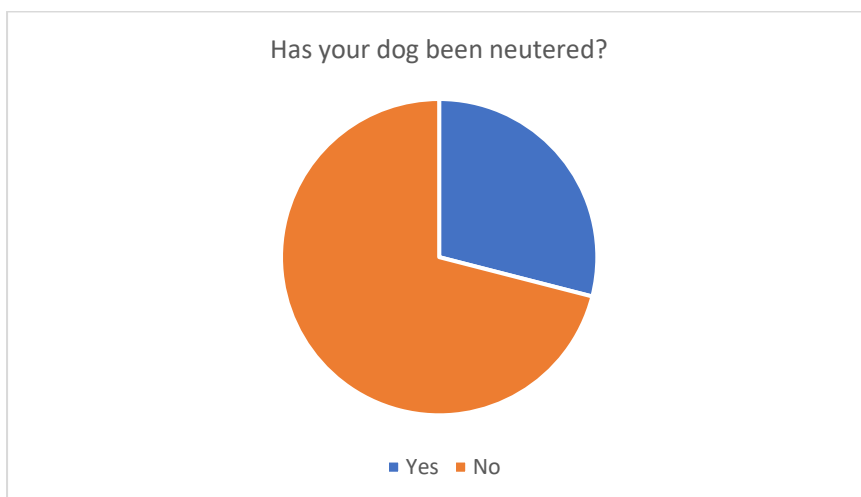
## Dog Information

Of the 74 dogs surveyed 50% were male and 50% were female. The survey initially asked if the surveyed dogs had any significant health problems. 70 dogs (94.6%) reported no significant health problems, 4 dogs (5.4%) considered to have had significant health issues in their life time.



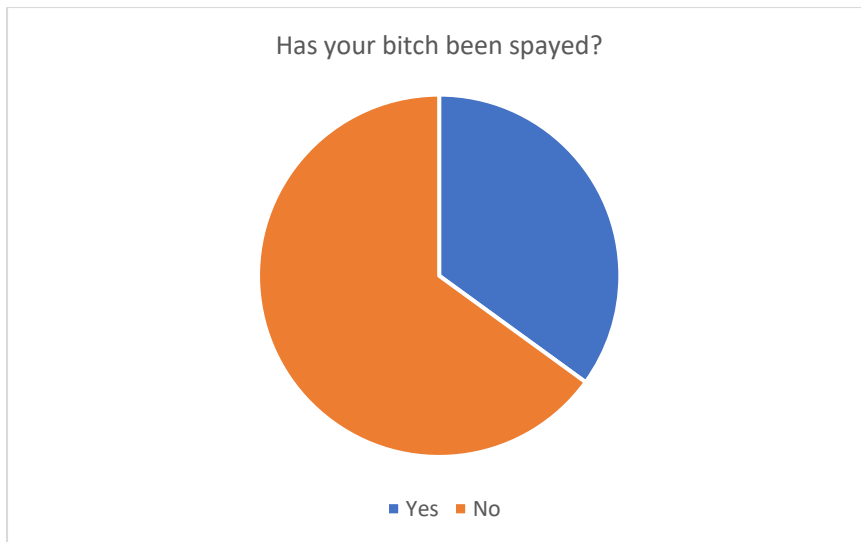
**Figure 5:** Percentage of dogs surveyed who have/had significant health problems in their lifetime.

Of the 37 dogs entered in this survey 26 (71%) of them have not been neutered and remain entire. The remaining 11 (29%) dogs had been neutered.



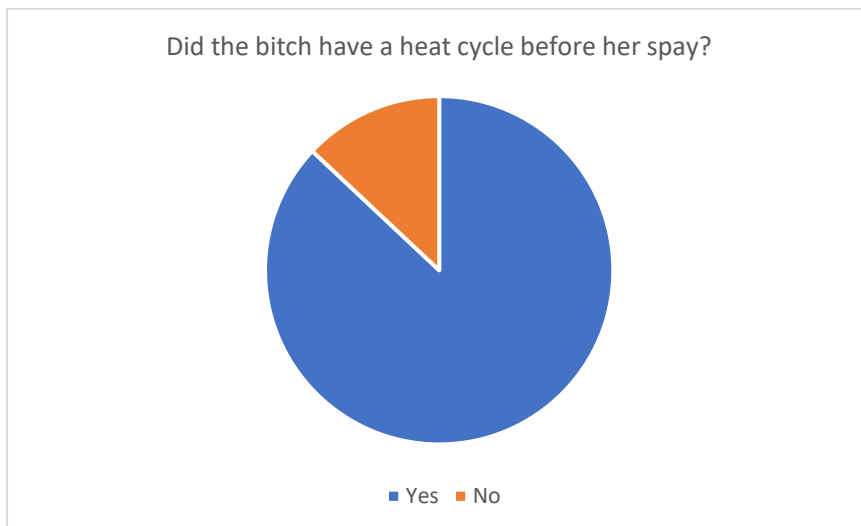
**Figure 6:** Percentage of neutered against un-neutered dogs in the survey.

Of the 37 bitches entered in this survey 24 (65%) of them had not been spayed. The remaining 13 (35%) bitches had been spayed.



**Figure 7:** Percentage of spayed against un-spayed bitches in the survey.

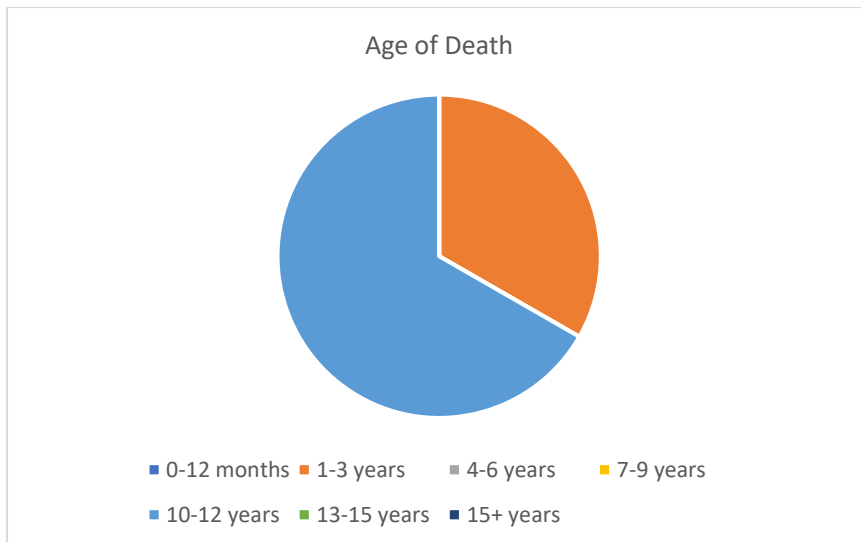
Of the 13 bitches that had been spayed in the survey, 11 (87%) of them were spayed after they had had one or more heat cycles. 2 (13%) of the spayed bitches in the survey were spayed prior to their first heat cycle.



**Figure 8:** Percentage of bitches spayed before a heat cycle against those spayed after at least one.

The respondents were then asked to comment on their overall health of their subject dog. Of the 74 responses 62 (83.8%) considered the overall health of their dog as “Excellent”, 9 (12.2%) considered it “Good” and 3 (4%) considered it “Fair”. There were no responses for “Poor”.

survey then established if the subject dog was still alive or deceased. Of the 74 responses 71 were still alive and 3 had deceased. The survey then sought to confirm age and cause of death. 1 dog (33.3%) died age 2, the other 2 dogs (66.7%) died between 10-12 years. No deaths were recorded in the other age groups.



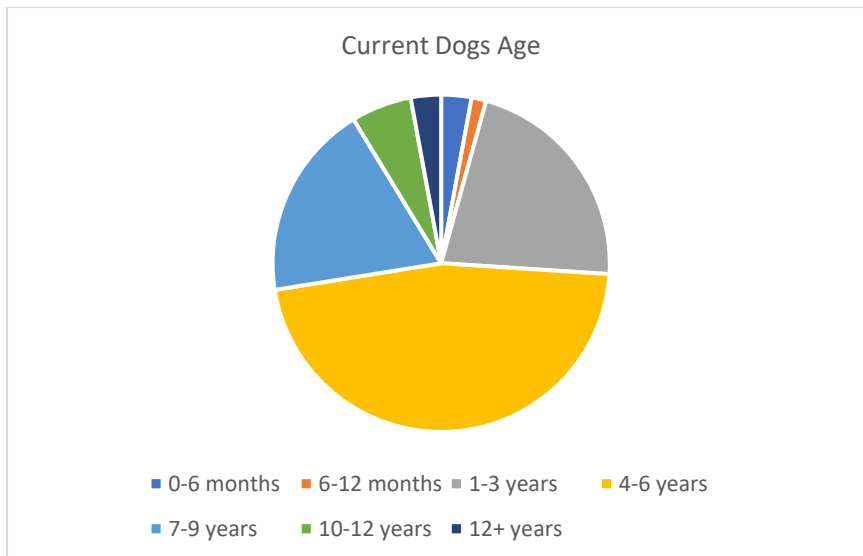
**Figure 10:** Shows the age of death of the 3 dogs surveyed.

The cause of death for all 3 dogs was due to illness, the youngest dog dies at 2 years and 7 months after the diagnosis of a brain tumour. The two older dogs were both put to sleep following the diagnosis of aggressive Liver Cancer.

At this stage respondents whose dogs were deceased were asked to submit their survey at this point. Therefore, the number of respondents to the following questions reduced to 71.

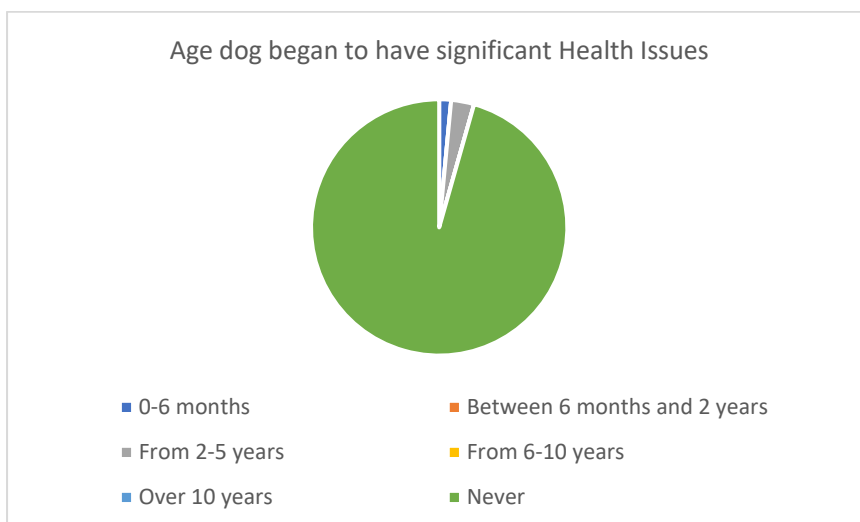
### **General Health Information**

The survey went on to establish the age range of the subject dogs remaining in the survey. 2 dogs (2.9%) were aged between 0-6 months, 1 dog (1.4%) was aged between 6-12 months, 16 dogs (21.7%) were between 1-3 years. 33 dogs (46.4%) were 4-6 years, 13 dogs (18.8%) were between 7-9 years, 4 dogs (5.8%) were between 10-12 years and 2 dogs (2.9%) were 12 years or older.



**Figure 11:** Current ages of the dogs taking part in the survey.

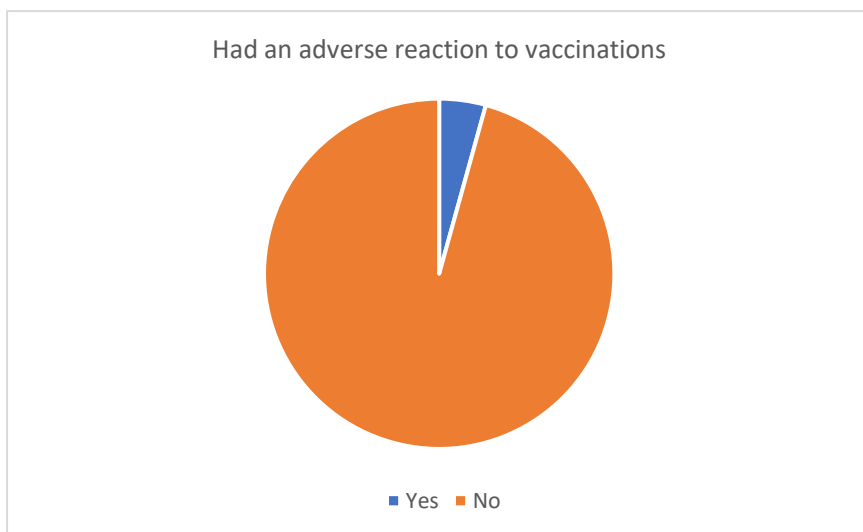
We then want to establish at what age the dogs in the survey began to have significant health issues if at all. 68 dogs (95.6%) said that they had never had any significant health issues. 1 dog (1.5%) was aged between 0 – 6 months and 2 dogs (2.9%) were aged between 2 – 5 years.



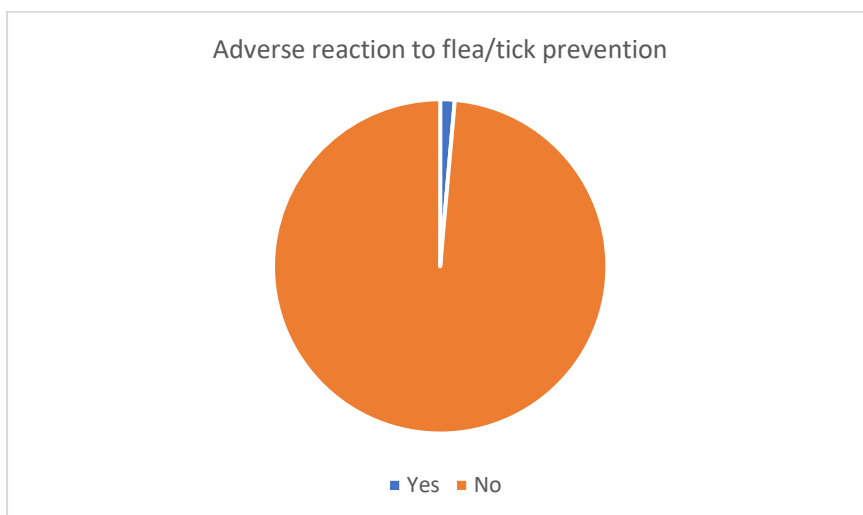
**Figure 12:** The ages at which dogs began to have significant health issues.

The survey then sought to determine the number of dogs that have had adverse reactions to routine vaccinations or flea and or Tick prevention. Of the remaining 71 dogs in the survey 3 dogs (4.3%) recorded as having an adverse reaction to their routine vaccinations and with 68 dogs (95.7%) having no reaction at all. 1 dog (1.4%) was recorded to have had a reaction to flea/tick treatments. The remaining 70 dogs having no reactions at all.





**Figure 13:** Dogs that have had adverse reactions to vaccinations.



**Figure 14:** Dogs that have had adverse reactions to flea/tick prevention.

### **Diagnosis Of Specific Health Issues**

In final part of the survey, we looked to establish if any of the Cirnechi remaining in the survey had been diagnosed with specific health issues and if so, what these issues are and the treatment being received. The conditions enquired about related to:

*Cancer or Tumours*

*Ear disorders*

*Gastrointestinal disorders*

*Neurological and/or Muscular disorders*

*Cardiovascular disorders*

*Skin disorders*

*Respiratory disorders*

*Liver disorders*

*Eye disorders*

*Blood/Lymph disorders*

*Kidney disorders*

*Dental disorders*

*Parasitic disorders.*

*Orthopaedic disorders*

*Endocrine/Metabolic disorders*

*Reproductive disorders*

*Immune system disorders*

Of the conditions mentioned above no dogs in the survey reported issues with:

*Respiratory disorders*

*Eye disorders*

*Neurological and/or Muscular disorders*

*Liver disorders*

*Orthopaedic disorders*

*Blood/Lymph disorders*

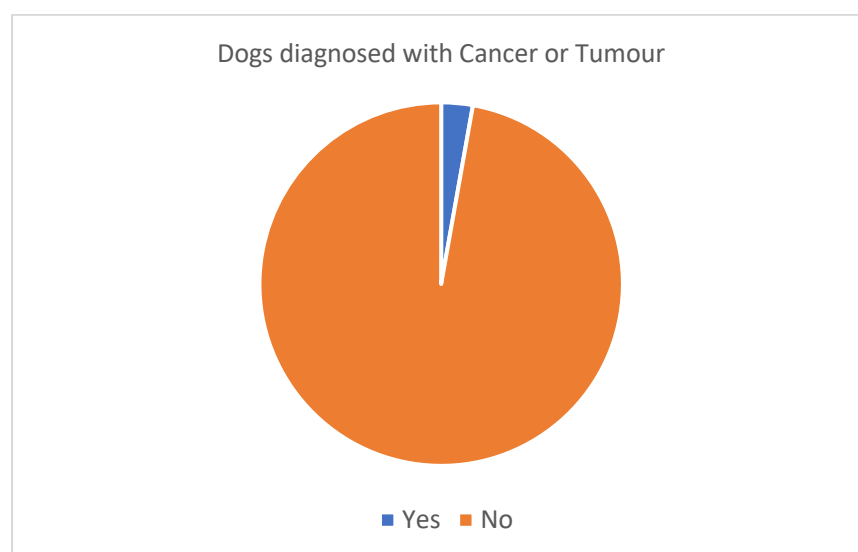
*Endocrine/Metabolic disorders*

*Kidney disorders*

*Immune system disorders.*

### **Cancer or Tumour**

Of the remaining 71 dogs in the survey 2 dogs (2.8%) had been diagnosed with cancer or tumour, the diagnosis details were provided for one of the dogs within the survey. This was that the dog was diagnosed using an MRI scan with a benign Lipoma at the age of 7, this was removed under general anaesthetic.

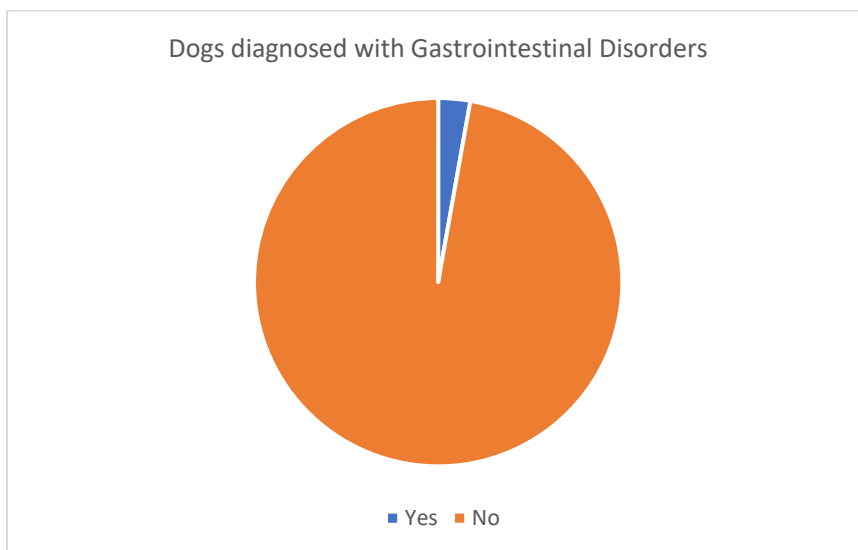


**Figure 15:** Dogs that have been diagnosed and treated for Cancer or Tumours.

### **Gastrointestinal Disorders**

Of the remaining 71 dogs in the survey 2 dogs (2.8%) had been diagnosed with gastrointestinal disorders, neither were diagnosed with specific conditions. One was diagnosed with an intestinal disorder due to inadequate feeding and general care by the previous owner and breeder for the first 3 years of the dogs' life. Treatment was a high-quality diet and probiotics.

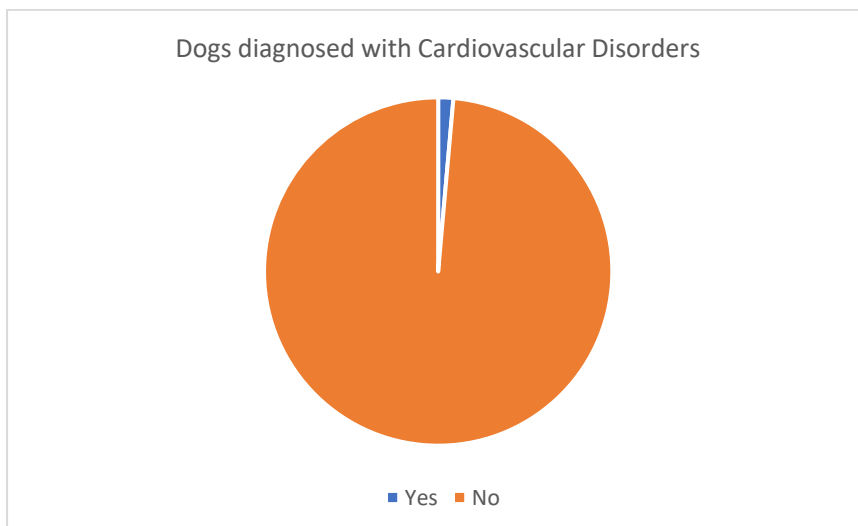
The second was an undiagnosed problem at the age of 7.5 years. The dog spent 4 days in the Veterinary Hospital on a drip and antibiotics.



**Figure 16:** Dogs that have been diagnosed and treated for Gastrointestinal disorders.

### **Cardiovascular Disorders**

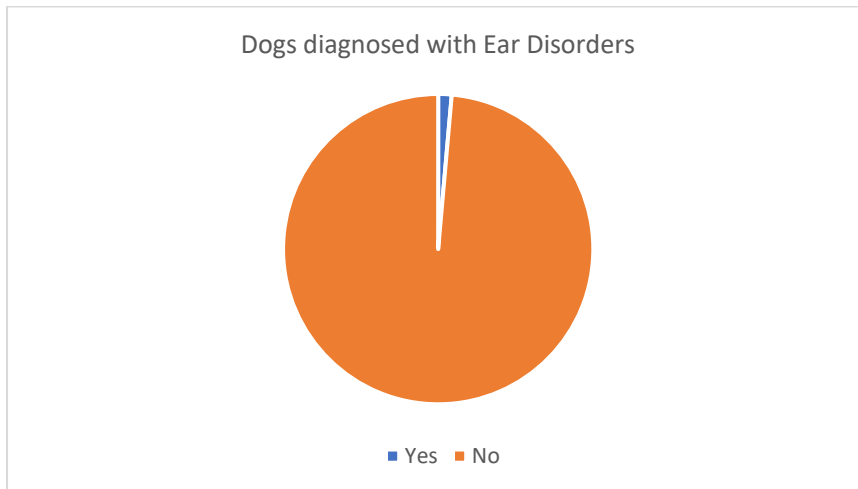
1 dog (1.4%) of the 71 remaining in the survey was diagnosed with mild heart disease at the age of 3 years, but no treatment was required.



**Figure 17:** Dogs that have been diagnosed and treated for Cardiovascular disorders.

### Ear Disorders

1 dog (1.4%) from the survey of the remaining 71 was diagnosed with an Ear disorder but the specific condition was undiagnosed and the survey respondent did not give an indication of symptoms or treatment.



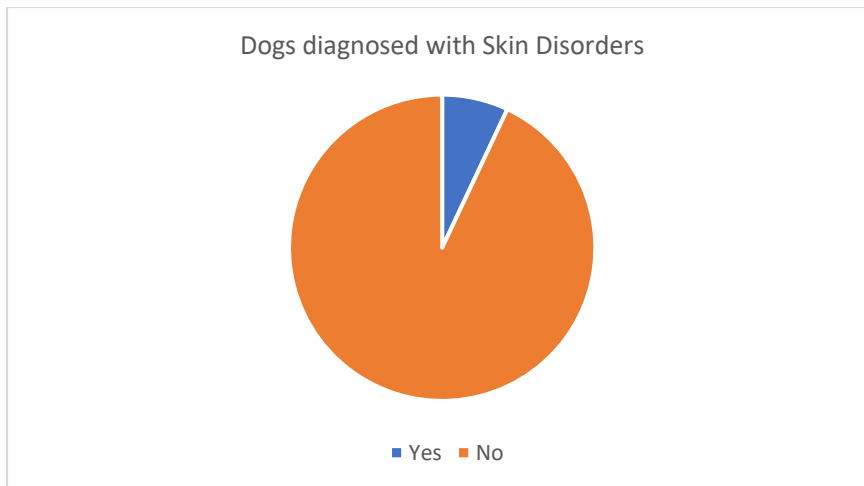
**Figure 18:** Dogs that have been diagnosed and treated for Ear disorders.

### Skin Disorders

Of the 71 dogs remaining in the survey 5 dogs (7%) had been diagnosed with a skin disorder. One of these was a 3-year-old dog who had a reaction to spot on flea treatment the burned the dogs' skin, this was healed using antiseptic cream for 2 weeks.

2 suffered interdigital cysts which were treated with steroids and careful management for around 9 weeks.

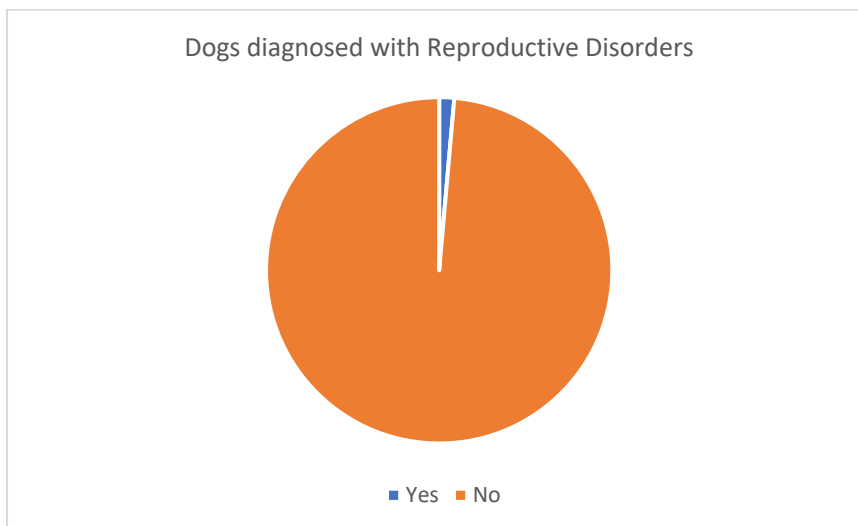
The remaining 2 were allergic reactions which appeared to occur in the summer resulting in itchy skin, licking of paws, redness of skin particularly around the toe joints. Apoquel was prescribed to alleviate the licking. One of these dogs was also reported to have developed wart-like little bumps on the skin as it aged.



**Figure 19:** Dogs that have been diagnosed and treated for Skin disorders.

### Reproductive Disorders

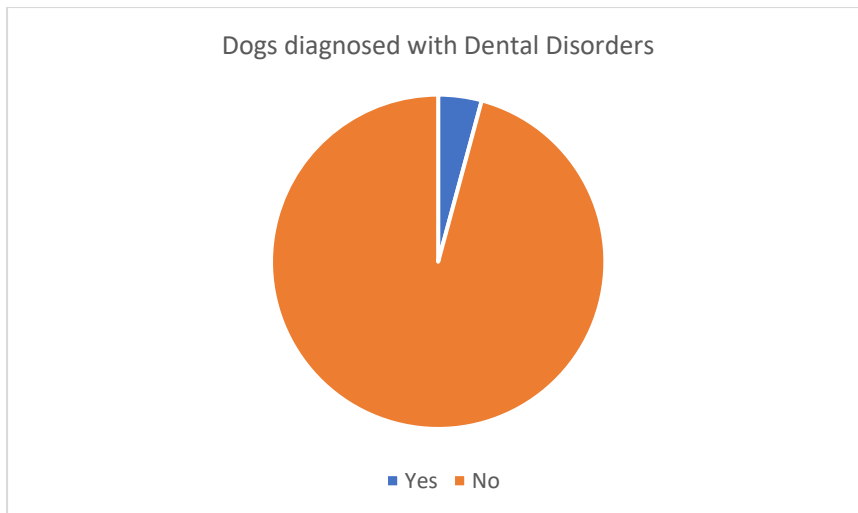
1 dog (1.4%) within the survey was reported to have had a reproductive disorder but no further details were given on this.



**Figure 20:** Dogs that have been diagnosed and treated for Reproductive disorders.

### Dental Disorders

Of the 71 dogs remaining in the survey 3 dogs (4.2%) had been diagnosed with dental disorders. One dog by the age of 11 had significant increase in tartar build up which coincided with starting coprophagia. At the age of 7 one of the dogs had a lower tooth removed by the vet under anaesthetic which had become “wobbly”. The final case was reported as Gum Inflammation due to inadequate care during the first three years of the dog’s life.

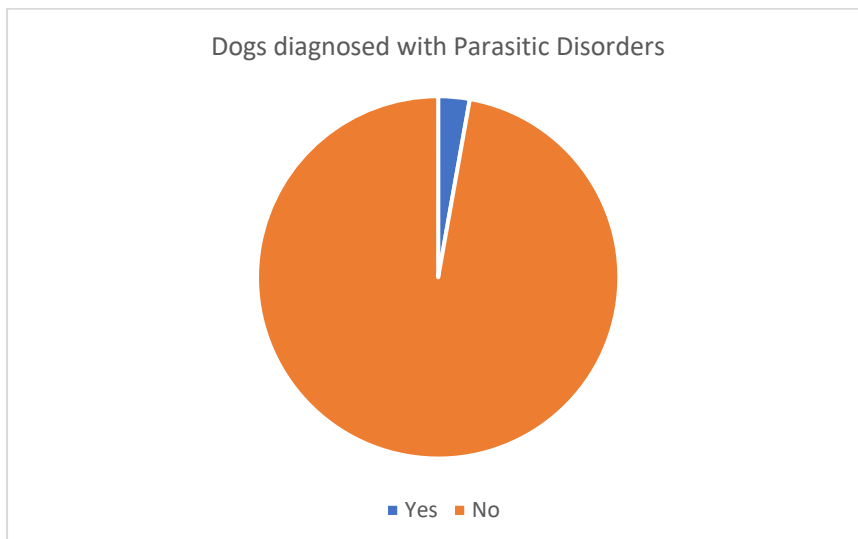


**Figure 21:** Dogs that have been diagnosed and treated for Dental disorders.

### Parasitic Disorders

2 of the dogs (2.8%) of the remaining 71 in the survey had been diagnosed with Parasitic disorders. One was diagnosed with intestinal worms when the dog came into their care at 3 years old, this was treated with the normal anti-worm treatment for three months.

The second dog came into the country from Sicily and was diagnosed with Leishmaniasis at the age of 3 years. Initial treatment was with Allopurinol for 18 months. Annual monitoring of the Leish levels in the blood will be required for the remainder of the dog’s life.



**Figure 22:** Dogs that have been diagnosed and treated for Parasitic disorders.

Finally, we asked “Has your dog suffered with any other disorders not mentioned above?” Of 70 responses to this question there were 6 positive responses, that had not already been mentioned in prior categories.

One of these was the result of a dog attack where the owner has reported a temperament change, with the dog becoming nervous around other dogs.

The second reported a Lipoma, a benign mass of fat cells, which were removed under anaesthetic.

The remaining 3 dogs appear to have suffered from allergic reactions.

One is believed to be the result of annual vaccination where a lump appeared at the injection site, this was dealt with by the vet.

The remaining 2 seem to be seasonal allergic reactions which occurs during warmer months, describing Hay fever type symptoms, no treatment was reported for these 2 cases.

## **References**

*Kennel Club Breed Health Conservation Plan July 2021*