

Banfield Pet Hospital™
State of Pet Health

**2012
REPORT**





Welcome to Banfield Pet Hospital's *State of Pet Health 2012 Report*—the only report of its kind to capture and analyze the medical data from more than 2 million dogs and nearly 430,000 cats. As the largest veterinary practice in the world, Banfield operates more than 800 hospitals in 43 states, and more than 13,000 associates—including 2,600 licensed veterinarians—work at Banfield. As such, Banfield has a unique understanding of the health of companion animals. Through our extensive commitment to innovation, our practice has created this ground-breaking report, now in its second year.

Our commitment to ongoing preventive care and early disease diagnosis was the driving force behind our focus on the chronic diseases and conditions highlighted in this year's report, including: overweight and obesity, arthritis, kidney disease, thyroid disease and heart disease. Over the past five years, many chronic conditions have continued to increase, in some instances, at an alarming rate. In this report, the overweight and obesity findings are some of the most concerning—since 2007, overweight and obesity have increased by

37 percent in dogs and 90 percent in cats. When pets are diagnosed as overweight, their waistline is not the only concern; the condition is associated with other serious diseases such as arthritis, diabetes mellitus, heart disease and hypothyroidism.

Chronic diseases are not limited to the five highlighted in this report. Many of the most common diagnoses in both dogs and cats are also chronic conditions that can severely impact the overall quality of a pet's life and potentially become costly to manage. Chronic diseases also include dental disease, dermatitis (skin infection), diabetes mellitus and otitis externa (ear infection).

As outlined in the *State of Pet Health 2011 Report*, which examined diseases from 2006-2011, diabetes mellitus increased by 32 percent in dogs and 16 percent in cats; dental disease—the most common condition affecting dogs and cats—increased by 12 percent in dogs and 10 percent in cats; and otitis externa—the second most common condition affecting dogs and cats—increased by 9 percent in dogs and 34 percent in cats.

At Banfield, we believe all pets need to receive twice-annual comprehensive examinations—this is particularly important as pets get older and are more likely to develop chronic diseases. The key to successful early disease diagnosis involves a partnership between pet owners and their veterinarian to identify changes in a pet's overall health and behavior. Pets, especially cats, are known for hiding illness—by the time many diseases are diagnosed, it's often too late to successfully treat or manage the condition. This is why it is so important for pet owners to work with their veterinarian to understand and identify signs of serious health issues affecting dogs and cats.

As a practice, our focus is making a better world for pets through preventive care. We are the leader in innovative pet healthcare programs, such as Optimum Wellness Plans®—packages of preventive care services at an affordable price. Most importantly, we believe that early disease diagnosis will positively impact a pet's health and lifespan—and with proper disease management, a pet can continue to live a happy, healthy life.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Klausner, DVM, MS, DACVIM
Chief Medical Officer
Banfield Pet Hospital

In 2011, Banfield Pet Hospital cared for more than 2 million dogs and nearly 430,000 cats. Banfield's veterinarians and paraprofessionals use PetWare®, Banfield's proprietary data/electronic medical records system, to collect data from every pet cared for in Banfield hospitals. Information is downloaded daily to the medical database at Banfield's main campus in Portland, Ore. Data are then analyzed by Banfield's internal research team, Banfield Applied Research & Knowledge (BARK). BARK's research findings are disseminated to Banfield veterinarians, the veterinary profession and pet owners through various avenues including continuing education training, peer-reviewed publications, the *Banfield Journal* (a medical publication), and now, the annual *State of Pet Health Report*.

Banfield's commitment to providing high quality veterinary care is grounded in evidence-based medicine—this is supported by BARK's team of researchers, many of whom are veterinarians and are dedicated to population-based research. Our commitment also extends to forming partnerships that will benefit pets and pet owners. This philosophy led PetSmart®, the nation's largest retailer of pet-related products and services, to ask Banfield to bring high quality care to their stores in 1994. In 2007, Banfield joined the Mars Incorporated family of businesses with the common goal of providing high quality pet care and nutrition to companion animals.

The *State of Pet Health 2012 Report* details some of the most common and medically important diseases affecting dogs and cats in the United States, according

to their age, breed and geographic location. The 2012 report also details how the prevalence and geographic trends of important chronic diseases—overweight and obesity, arthritis, kidney disease, thyroid disease and heart disease—changed over the last five years.

The information in this report will be useful to veterinarians, pet owners and the public as we focus on raising awareness for important diseases affecting the overall health of pets. With increased knowledge and education, we hope to successfully decrease the number of pets living with undiagnosed and unmanaged chronic diseases.

Pet owner perceptions

To provide a voice to the pet owner, this year's report also identifies pet owner insights and perceptions as they relate to pet health issues, specifically chronic diseases and pet owner behavior. The survey,* which was conducted by Kelton, a leading market research and strategy consultancy, polled more than 1,000 dog owners and more than 1,000 cat owners in the United States. Findings of the survey are highlighted throughout the report. This information is valuable as it raises awareness of pet owner knowledge gaps, identifies pet owner education opportunities and provides key learnings for veterinarians and the profession as a whole.

**The cat survey and dog survey each have a margin of error of +/- 3.1 percent.*

The figures, graphs and five-year trends* in this report are presented as cases per 10,000 (arthritis, heart disease, kidney disease and thyroid disease) or cases per 100 (overweight/obese). For example, in 2011, 225 dogs were diagnosed with arthritis per 10,000 dogs seen, and 21 out of every 100 cats seen were diagnosed as overweight.

**The five-year trends in this report are represented as age-adjusted rates weighted by the proportion of dogs and cats seen by age group in 2007.*



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BANFIELD APPLIED RESEARCH & KNOWLEDGE (BARK)

Banfield Pet Hospital employs a team of skilled researchers to help our veterinarians deliver the best care possible based on the latest medical evidence—this team is called the Banfield Applied Research & Knowledge (BARK) team. BARK analyzes the medical data of more than 6 million pet visits at Banfield hospitals each year through Banfield’s proprietary data medical records system, PetWare®. The team then conducts retrospective and prospective studies and shares its findings with veterinarians and the public through various avenues including continuing education training, peer-reviewed publications, the *Banfield Journal* (a medical publication), and now, the annual *State of Pet Health Report*.

For the *State of Pet Health 2012 Report*, the BARK team analyzed the medical records of 2 million dogs and nearly 430,000 cats cared for in Banfield hospitals in 2011.

2011 at a glance

FACT: Chronic diseases are on the rise.

PET OWNER PERCEPTION: Only 36% of dog owners and 28% of cat owners would take their pet to see a veterinarian to manage an existing condition or disease.

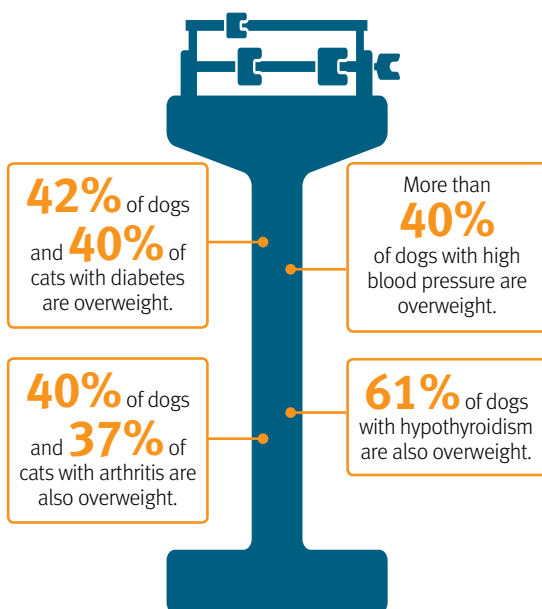
overweight & obesity

FACT: Overweight pets have increased in the past five years.

↑ **37%** in dogs ↑ **90%** in cats

PET OWNER PERCEPTION: 76% of dog owners and 69% of cat owners believe their pet is just the right weight.

Being overweight affects more than just the waistline:



arthritis

FACT: The prevalence of arthritis has increased dramatically in the past five years.

↑ **38%** in dogs ↑ **67%** in cats

PET OWNER PERCEPTION: 68% of dog owners and 73% of cat owners are not aware that weight gain and arthritis in pets are linked.

► 1 in 3 arthritic dogs and cats are also overweight.

kidney disease

FACT: Kidney disease is almost **7** times as common in cats as it is in dogs. It is also one of the leading causes of death in cats; most cats diagnosed in the early stages of chronic kidney disease live two to three years, whereas most cats diagnosed in later stages live less than six months after diagnosis.

PET OWNER PERCEPTION:



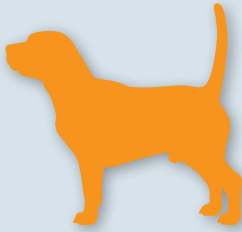
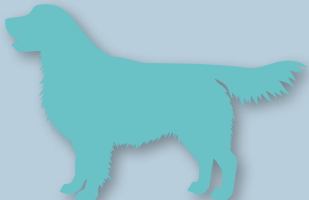

55% of cat owners don't realize cats can have kidney disease without appearing ill.



breed overview

Dogs and cats can be prone to certain diseases based on their breed. For dogs, breed size can also put them at an increased risk for certain diseases. As such, breed and breed

size have become important in veterinary medicine in understanding the diseases or conditions to which a dog may be predisposed.

		PET/BREED SIZE ICON*	
Banfield sees 1 cat per 5 dogs	cat average weight: 10 lbs		
	<div>COMMON BREEDS</div> <div>Domestic Shorthair Domestic Medium Hair Domestic Longhair</div>	<div>COMMON DIAGNOSES</div> <div>Feline respiratory virus Kidney disease Tapeworms</div>	<div>COMMON NAMES</div> <div>Tiger Max Kitty Bella</div>
51% of dogs seen at Banfield	toy/small weight: <20 lbs		
	<div>COMMON BREEDS</div> <div>Chihuahua Scottish Terrier Shih Tzu Yorkshire Terrier</div>	<div>COMMON DIAGNOSES</div> <div>Dental tartar Patellar luxation (kneecap pops out of place) Retained baby teeth</div>	<div>COMMON NAMES</div> <div>Max Buddy Bella Daisy</div>
26% of dogs seen at Banfield	medium weight: 20-50 lbs		
	<div>COMMON BREEDS</div> <div>Beagle Boxer Cocker Spaniel Pit Bull</div>	<div>COMMON DIAGNOSES</div> <div>Conjunctivitis (eye infection) Cystitis (bladder inflammation) Underbite</div>	<div>COMMON NAMES</div> <div>Max Buddy Bella Daisy</div>
20% of dogs seen at Banfield	large weight: 50-90 lbs		
	<div>COMMON BREEDS</div> <div>German Shepherd Golden Retriever Labrador Retriever Rottweiler</div>	<div>COMMON DIAGNOSES</div> <div>Gastroenteritis (GI upset) Otitis externa (ear infection) Overweight</div>	<div>COMMON NAMES</div> <div>Max Buddy Bella Sadie</div>
3% of dogs seen at Banfield	giant weight: >90 lbs		
	<div>COMMON BREEDS</div> <div>Great Dane Great Pyrenees Mastiff St. Bernard</div>	<div>COMMON DIAGNOSES</div> <div>Arthritis Lameness Skin tumor</div>	<div>COMMON NAMES</div> <div>Bear Max Bella Roxy</div>

*Look for these pet/breed size icons throughout the report as a key to understanding the diseases to which certain pets/breeds may be predisposed.

breed trends

The most common dog breeds and dog breed sizes cared for in Banfield hospitals have changed over the past decade. As noted in the *State of Pet*

Health 2011 Report, an increase in smaller dogs and a decline in larger dogs seen at Banfield continues to remain true, as does the increase in mixed-breed dogs.

TOP 10 dog breeds in 2011

Changes from 2001 to 2011:



+100% chihuahuas
+76% shih tzus



-10% labs
-39% german shepherds

1. labrador retriever
2. chihuahua
3. shih tzu
4. yorkshire terrier
5. pit bull

6. german shepherd
7. mixed breed
8. dachshund
9. maltese
10. standard poodle

The most common cat breeds have remained consistent over the past 10 years. They include: Domestic Shorthair, Domestic Medium Hair and Domestic Longhair. Despite these three breeds

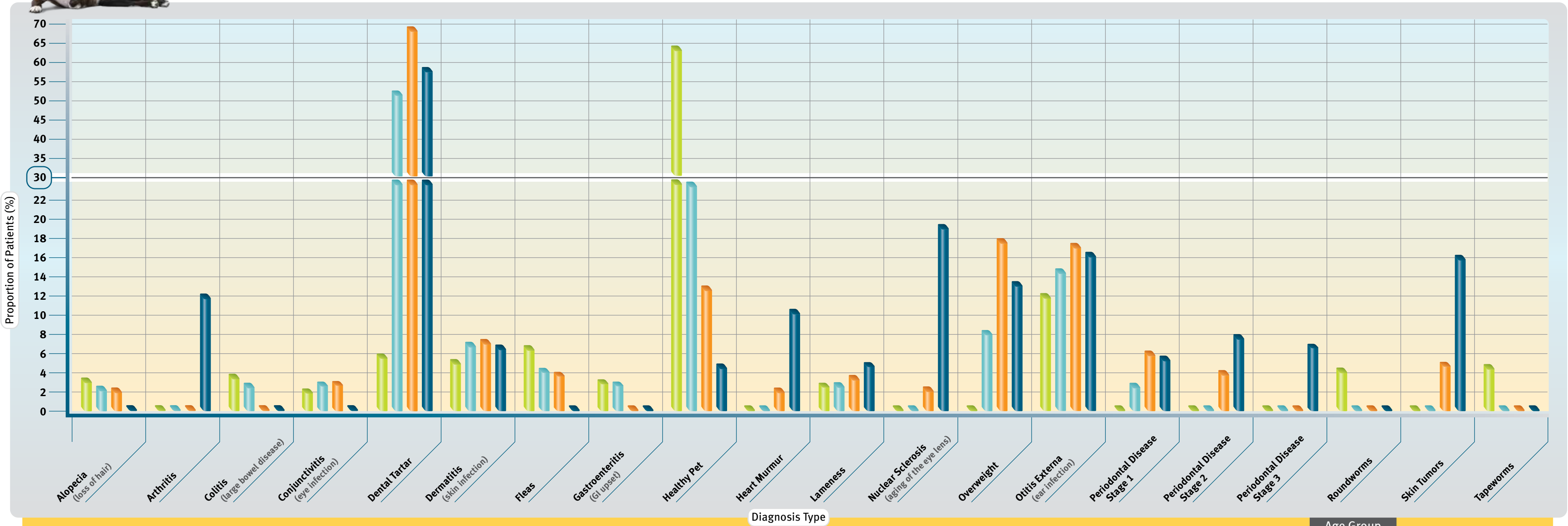
accounting for more than 85 percent of cats cared for in Banfield hospitals in 2011, exotic cat breeds continue to increase in popularity, including:

siamese
bengal
himalayan
persian
russian blue
maine coon
ragdoll
manx





Most Common Diagnoses 2011 | Dog

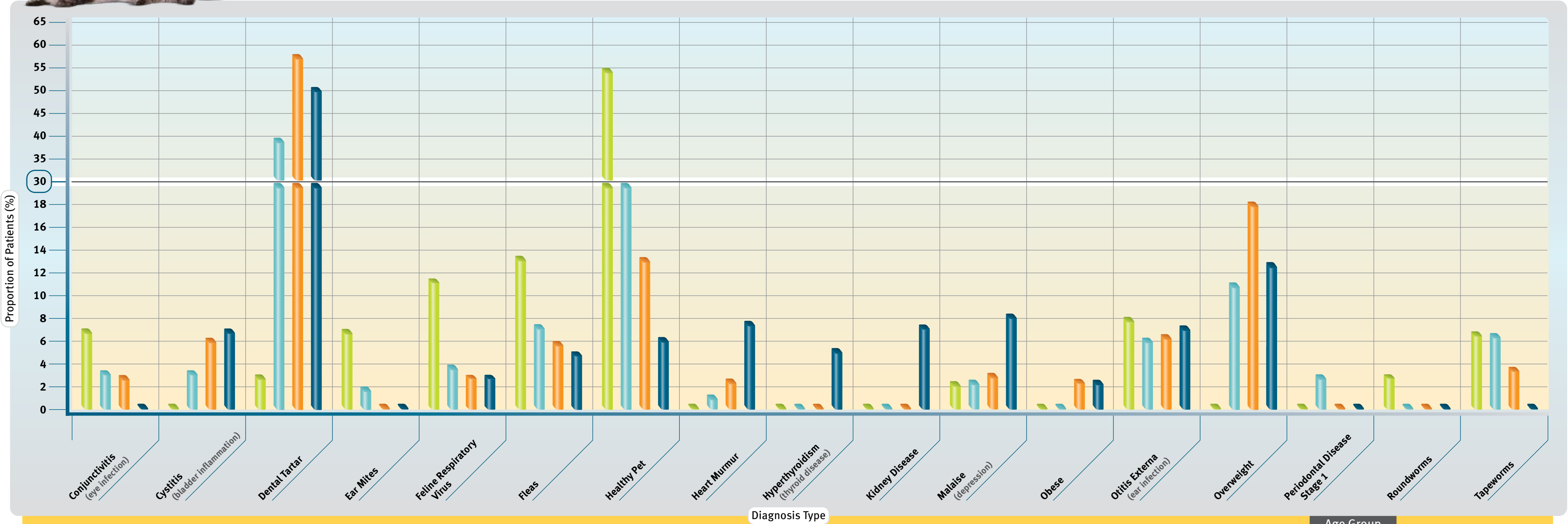


These diagnoses are a compilation of the most common diagnoses found in dogs throughout the year. While “Healthy Pet” is not a true medical diagnosis, it is important to include, as it reinforces that pet owners should bring their pets to the veterinarian for preventive care, as well as when their pets are sick or injured. Reasons for a “Healthy Pet” visit include physical examinations, routine vaccinations and blood work or nutritional counseling, among other reasons.





Most Common Diagnoses 2011 | Cat



These diagnoses are a compilation of the most common diagnoses found in cats throughout the year. While “Healthy Pet” is not a true medical diagnosis, it is important to include, as it reinforces that pet owners should bring their pets to the veterinarian for preventive care, as well as when their pets are sick or injured. Reasons for a “Healthy Pet” visit include physical examinations, routine vaccinations and blood work or nutritional counseling, among other reasons.



overweight & obesity

Overweight and obesity have reached epidemic levels in dogs and cats in the United States, affecting approximately 1 in 5 dogs and cats. Although some might consider pets to be cuter or happier when they are overweight, the truth is, being overweight is linked to other serious conditions such as arthritis, heart and respiratory problems and diabetes mellitus (cats).

The easiest way to tell whether a dog or cat is overweight or obese is to weigh the pet regularly and assess the pet's body condition (see page 17). Pets are considered to have an "overweight" body condition when their ribs, spine and hip bones can barely be felt when touching their body, a defined waist cannot be seen and belly fat is noticeable. Additionally, pets may be unable to engage in normal activity because of this excess body fat and may have difficulty breathing, particularly when active.

Veterinarians will diagnose pets as overweight by tracking body weight over time and assessing body condition regularly. Veterinarians can also determine whether excess weight gain might be due to, or be a sign of, an underlying disease such as hypothyroidism in dogs. Restricting caloric intake and increasing activity are the most successful methods for weight loss in dogs and cats that are otherwise healthy. Nutritional counseling with a veterinarian, and diets specially formulated for weight loss, can aid in reaching a healthy weight.

Preventive recommendation

Regular checkups and nutritional counseling with a veterinarian can help ensure pets remain at an ideal weight and body condition.

Bottom line

- Dogs and cats are getting fatter. The prevalence of excess body weight has increased by 37 percent in dogs and 90 percent in cats since 2007.
 - Mature adult dogs and cats are more at risk for being overweight than pets of other age groups. Mature adult large breed dogs are most at risk, with about 1 in 5 (28 percent) diagnosed as overweight in 2011.
 - In 2011, the states with the highest prevalence of overweight and obesity in cats include Minnesota, South Dakota and Oklahoma. For dogs, Minnesota once again ranked highest, followed by South Dakota and Utah.
- More than 40 percent of dogs with high blood pressure are also overweight.

Pet/breed sizes prone to this disease



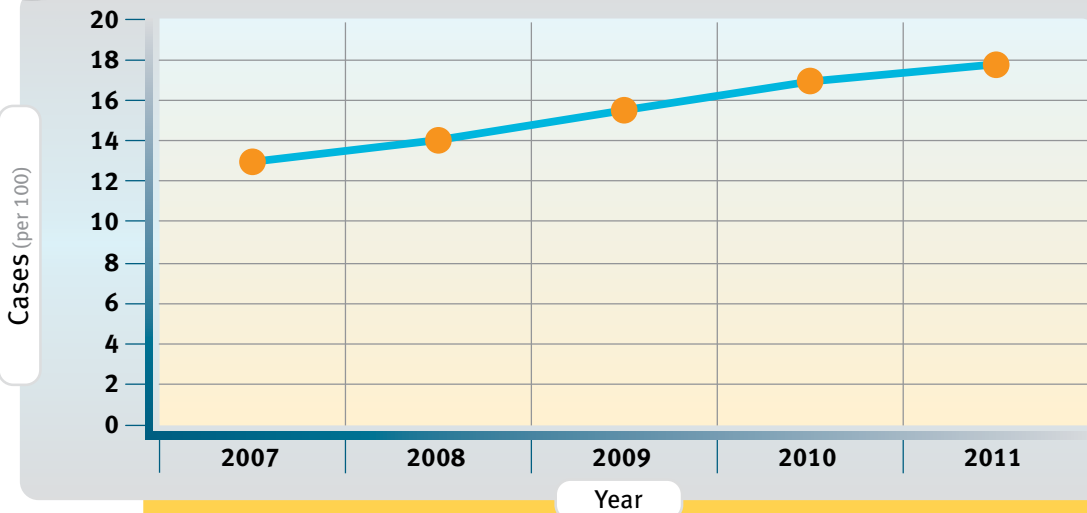
Pet owner perception:

DOGS: Nearly all dog owners say they actively monitor their dog's weight, however 67% are doing so by simply looking at their pet, which might be misleading.

CATS: Approximately 2 in 3 (69%) cat owners consider their pet to be just the right weight, while only 22% believe their cat is overweight.

**Overweight & Obesity | Dog | 5-Year Trend**

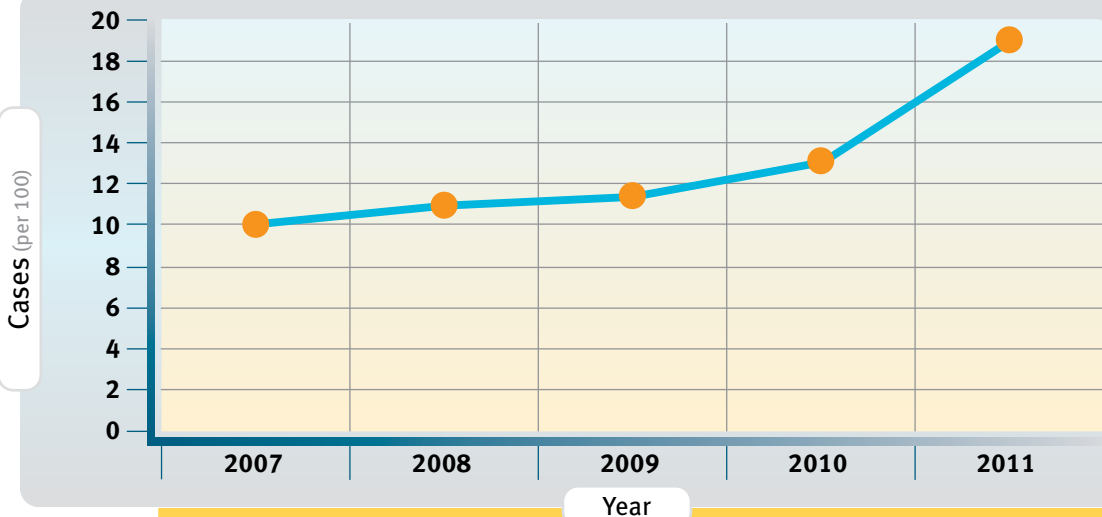
Cases (per 100)



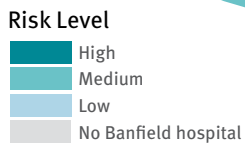
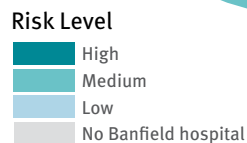
Key takeaway: Since 2007, the prevalence of overweight dogs has increased almost 37 percent; the prevalence in mature adult dogs increased by 43 percent and 68 percent in geriatric dogs. It is important for dogs to maintain an ideal weight, as being overweight is linked to other conditions such as arthritis.

**Overweight & Obesity | Cat | 5-Year Trend**

Cases (per 100)























Key takeaway: The prevalence of overweight cats has increased more than 90 percent since 2007, and geriatric cats seem to be suffering the most—in this age group, the prevalence has more than doubled. Additionally, overweight cats may be at risk for other conditions such as diabetes mellitus and heart disease, which is why maintaining an ideal weight is extremely important.



body condition score

Body condition scoring is a technique used to assess the degree of fat found on a dog or cat. This is a useful tool for helping veterinarians and pet owners identify and understand an ideal body condition and optimal body weight.

Body condition scores are measured on a scale of 1 to 5; an ideal body condition is a score of 3—pets that have a higher score, such as a 4 or 5, have a significantly increased risk of diseases such as arthritis or diabetes mellitus (cats).

DOG			CAT	
top view	side view		top view	side view
		1 VERY THIN More than 20% below ideal body weight • Severely defined ribs and waist		
		2 THIN Between 10-20% below ideal body weight • Easily visible ribs and waist		
		3 IDEAL WEIGHT • Ribs easily felt, but not seen • Obvious waist		
		4 OVERWEIGHT 20% above ideal weight • Ribs not easily seen or felt • Waist barely visible		
		5 OBESE 40% above ideal weight • Cannot feel ribs • Waist absent		

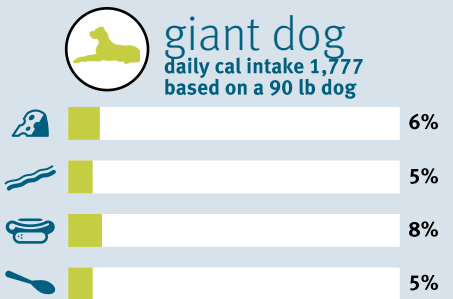
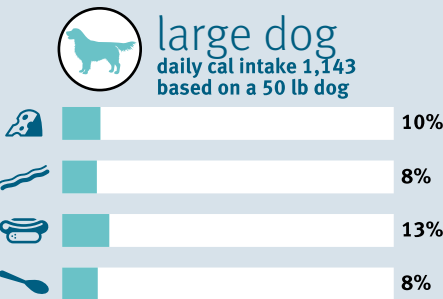
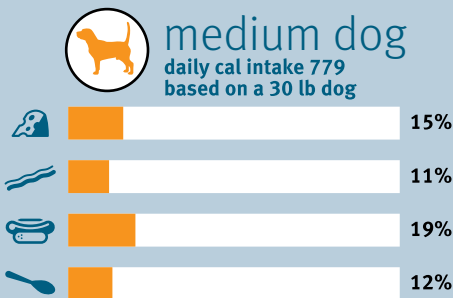
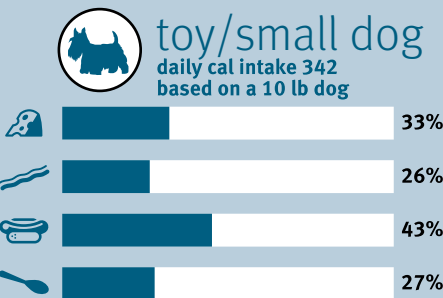
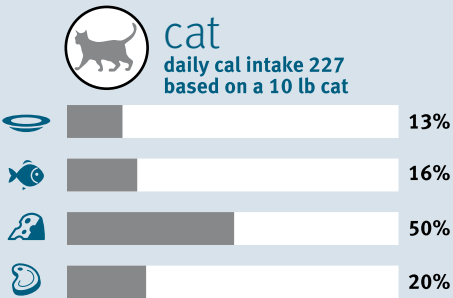
treat jar

In order to keep pets at a healthy weight, the treats they receive each day should be limited to less than 10 percent of their daily caloric requirements and, when treats are given, the amount of food fed each day should then be reduced by 10 percent.

It is important to remember that treats do not have to be food. Rewarding good behavior with something a pet enjoys, such as a belly rub, playing with a new toy or going on a walk, can be beneficial for pets and their waistline.

While both dogs and cats often receive human food as treats, pet owners do not realize that even in small quantities, human food can represent a large percent of a pet’s daily caloric (cal) requirement.

-  1 oz cheese: 114 cal
-  2 oz 2% milk: 30 cal
-  1 jerky strip: 88 cal
-  1 oz canned tuna: 36 cal
-  1 beef hot dog: 147 cal
-  1 slice deli meat ham: 46 cal
-  1 tbsp peanut butter: 94 cal



arthritis

Arthritis, or inflammation of the joints, affects dogs and cats just as it does humans. If left untreated, the disease can cause irreversible joint damage, resulting in pain and restricting a pet's ability to move or sit comfortably. Because pets, particularly cats, are good at hiding signs of discomfort, and because the signs of arthritis can be hard to distinguish from those of other diseases, arthritis is likely more common than currently reported.

Management of arthritis largely depends on the severity of the disease. For mild arthritis, treatment is usually conservative and may involve lifestyle changes (e.g., weight loss), anti-inflammatory medications to treat the pain and inflammation, moderate exercise, physical therapy, hydrotherapy and nutritional supplementation. For moderate to severe arthritis, veterinarians may prescribe more powerful medications and/or recommend surgery, depending on the pet's condition.

Signs of arthritis

Signs of arthritis vary greatly from dog to cat. Signs most often noticed in dogs can range from a mild decrease in activity level and stiffness when standing up, to limping, muscle loss, abnormal gait and sitting positions and reluctance to jump or climb stairs. Signs in cats are subtle, even with severe arthritis, and may only involve decreased activity or changes in normal activity or behavior.

Preventive recommendation

If left undiagnosed, or untreated, arthritis can significantly impact the overall quality of a pet's life.

Bottom line

- The prevalence of arthritis has increased 38 percent in dogs and 67 percent in cats over the past five years.
- In 2011, 13 percent of geriatric dogs were diagnosed with arthritis.
- Nearly 1 in 4 (22 percent) geriatric large and giant breed dogs are diagnosed with arthritis.
 - ▶ About 1 in 3 arthritic dogs (40 percent) and cats (37 percent) were also overweight.
- While arthritis affects pets of all ages, the average age of dogs diagnosed with arthritis is 9 and the average age of cats diagnosed with arthritis is 12.

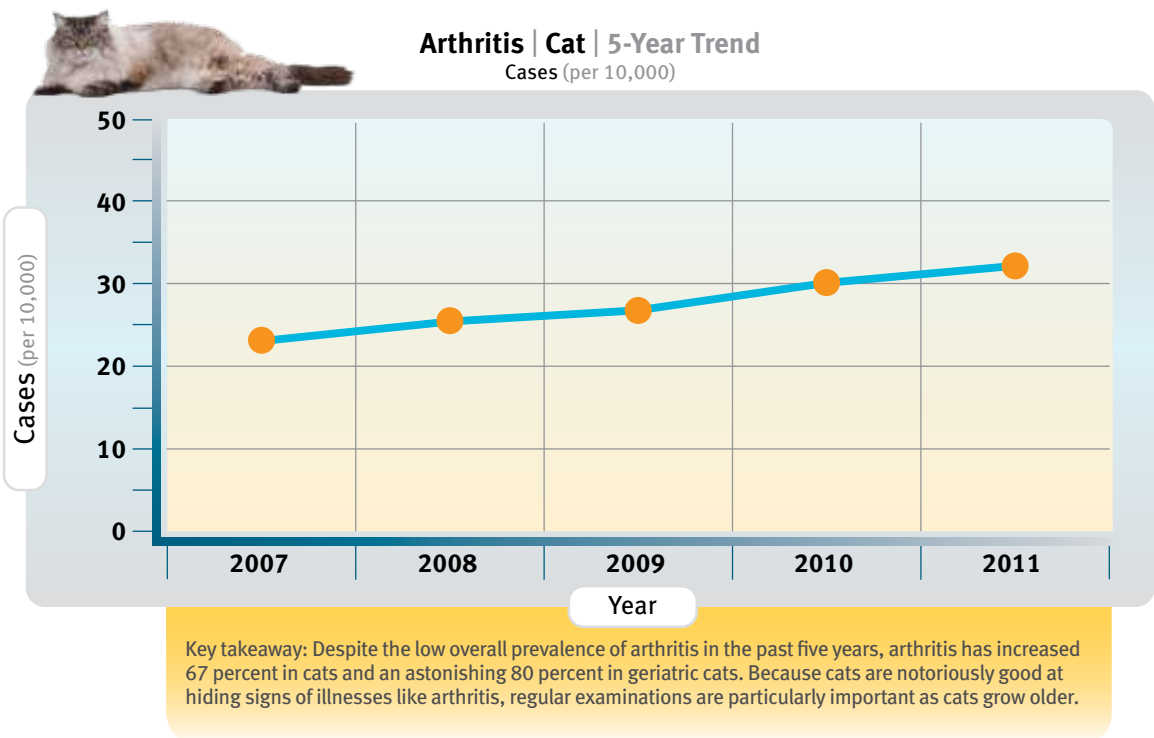
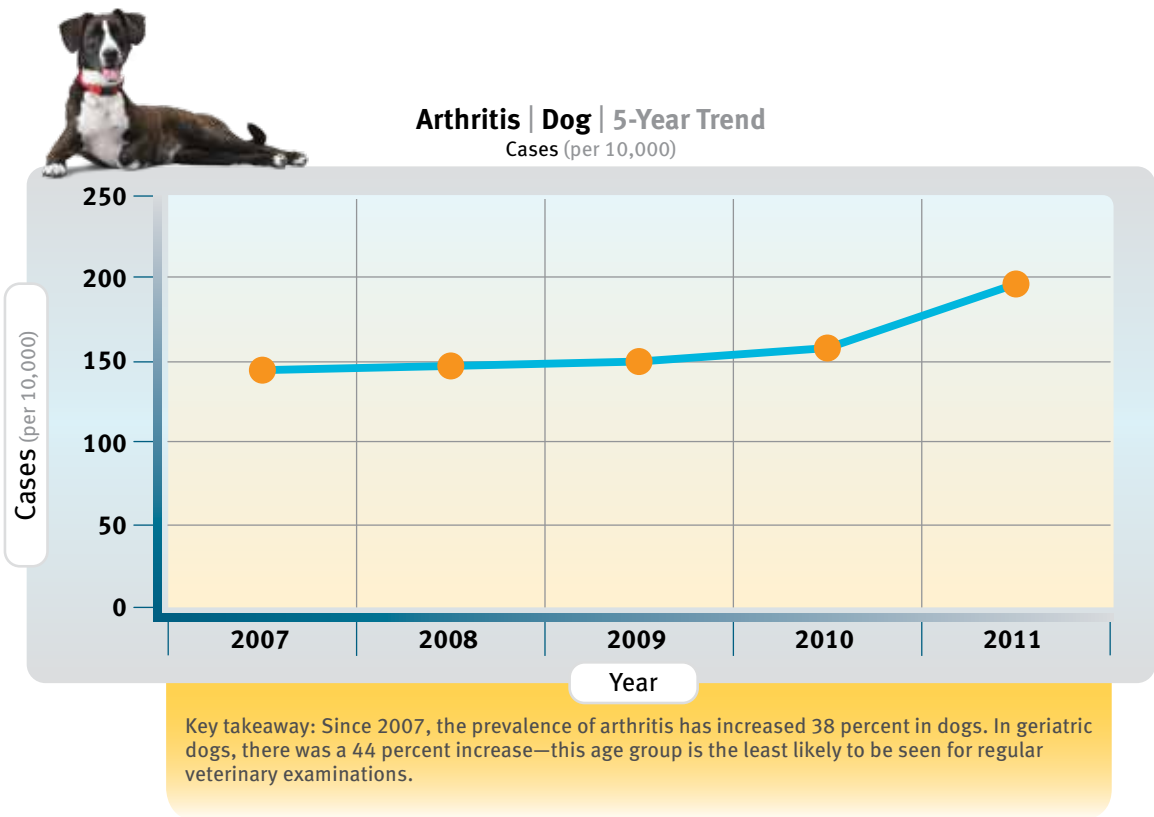
Pet/breed sizes prone to this disease



Pet owner perception:

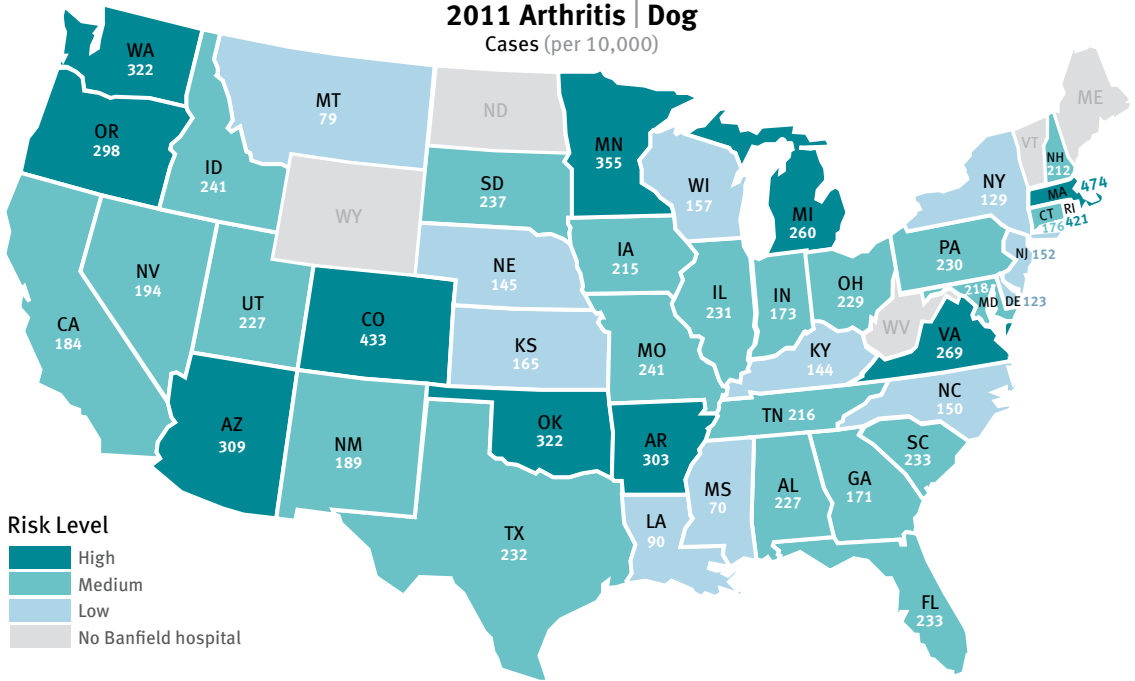
DOGS: Roughly 2 in 3 dog owners are not aware that weight gain or obesity are associated with arthritis; 30% are not aware that aging is also associated with arthritis.

CATS: More than 2 in 3 cat owners are not aware that weight gain or obesity are associated with arthritis; 38% are not aware that aging is also associated with arthritis.



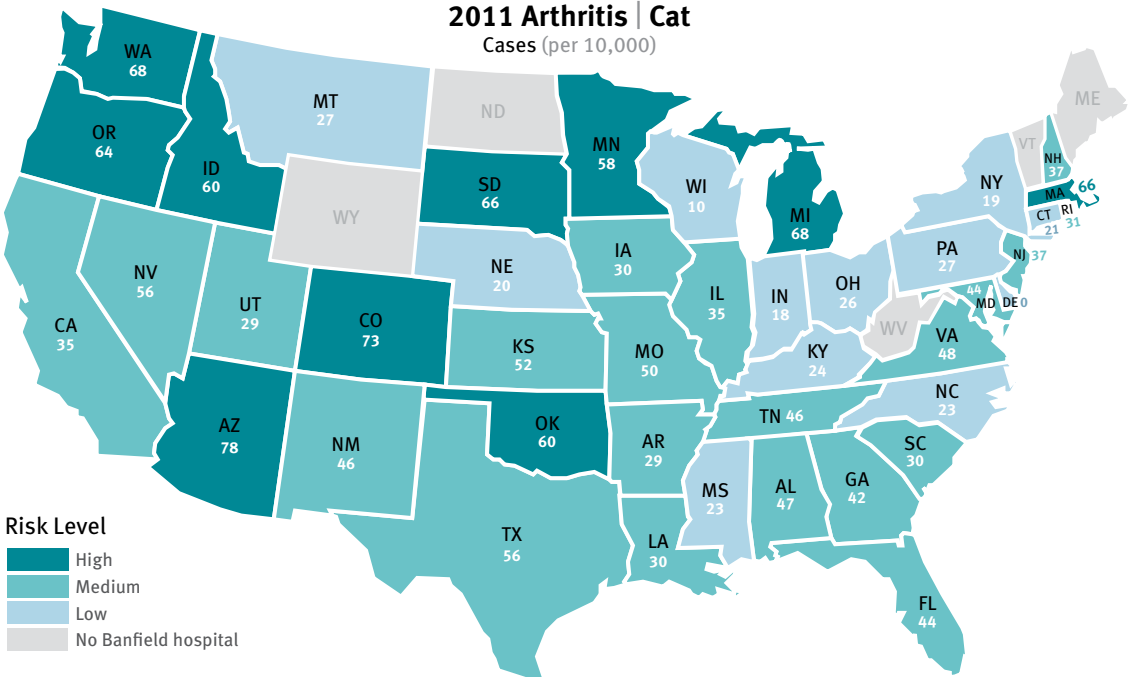
2011 Arthritis | Dog

Cases (per 10,000)



2011 Arthritis | Cat

Cases (per 10,000)



kidney disease

The most common kidney problem seen in pets is chronic kidney disease. While the disease is more common in cats, it affects dogs as well. Adult, and particularly geriatric pets, are more at risk than younger pets.

When kidneys become diseased, critical processes become impaired and affect the body in many ways. Dogs and cats experience a change in urination habits, but can also develop problems that might seem unrelated to kidney function, such as nausea or high blood pressure, depending on the nature of the disease. Dogs and cats may be born with unhealthy kidneys, or they may develop kidney problems as they age.

In the case of chronic kidney disease, the cause is largely unknown. This type of disease differs from other types of kidney disease in that kidney function slowly decreases over time, and affected pets might not seem sick until a great deal of kidney damage is present.

Because chronic kidney disease is progressive and permanent, early diagnosis is critical. The best way to achieve this is through annual to semiannual physical examinations, along with blood and urine testing and at-home monitoring of pets. Dogs and cats that are diagnosed early can be placed on special diets and receive other veterinary-prescribed treatments, which can make a difference in the length and quality of their life.

Signs of kidney disease

Warning signs of chronic kidney disease include increased thirst, increased urination, decreased appetite, weight loss, vomiting and bad breath.

Pet owner perception:

DOGS: *More than 2 in 3 dog owners are not aware that diarrhea, vomiting, lethargy or weight loss can be associated with kidney disease.*

Preventive recommendation

Prevent pet exposure to items that can cause kidney damage when eaten, such as Easter lilies, grapes and antifreeze.

Bottom line

- Kidney disease is almost seven times more common in cats than it is in dogs.
- In 2011, 1 in every 12 geriatric cats had kidney disease.
- In 2011, Wisconsin, Iowa and Kansas had the highest prevalence of kidney disease in dogs. Arkansas, Colorado and Arizona had the highest prevalence in cats.
 - ▶ More than one-third of dogs (37 percent) and one-quarter of cats (29 percent) with kidney disease also have periodontal disease.

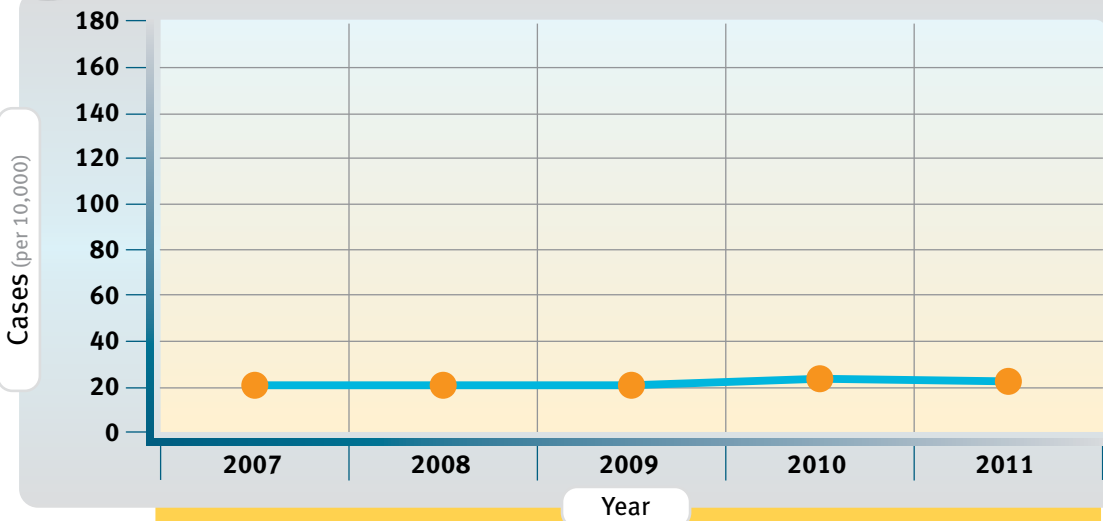
Pet/breed sizes prone to this disease



CATS: *At least 3 in 5 cat owners are not aware that diarrhea, vomiting, lethargy or weight loss can be associated with kidney disease.*

**Kidney Disease | Dog | 5-Year Trend**

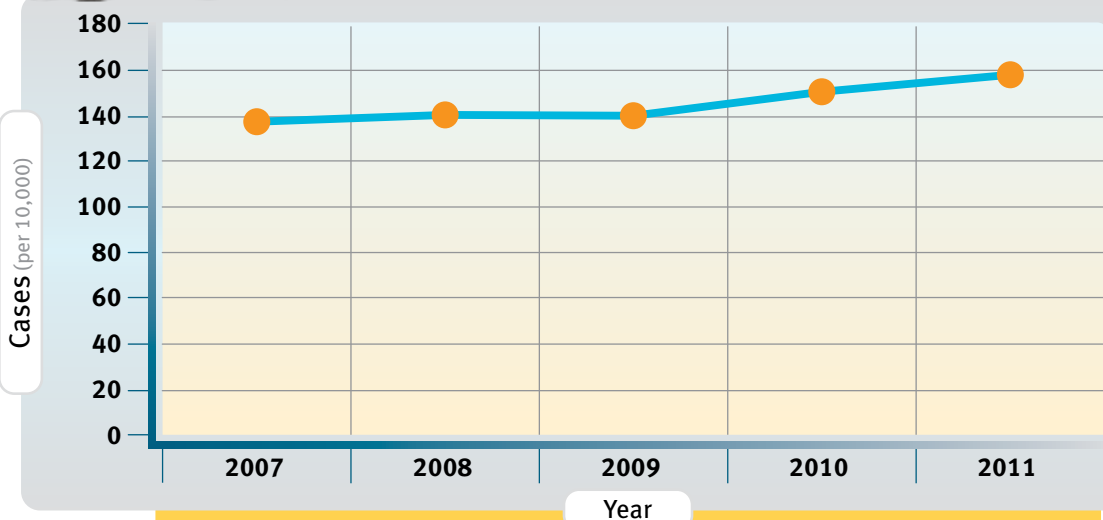
Cases (per 10,000)



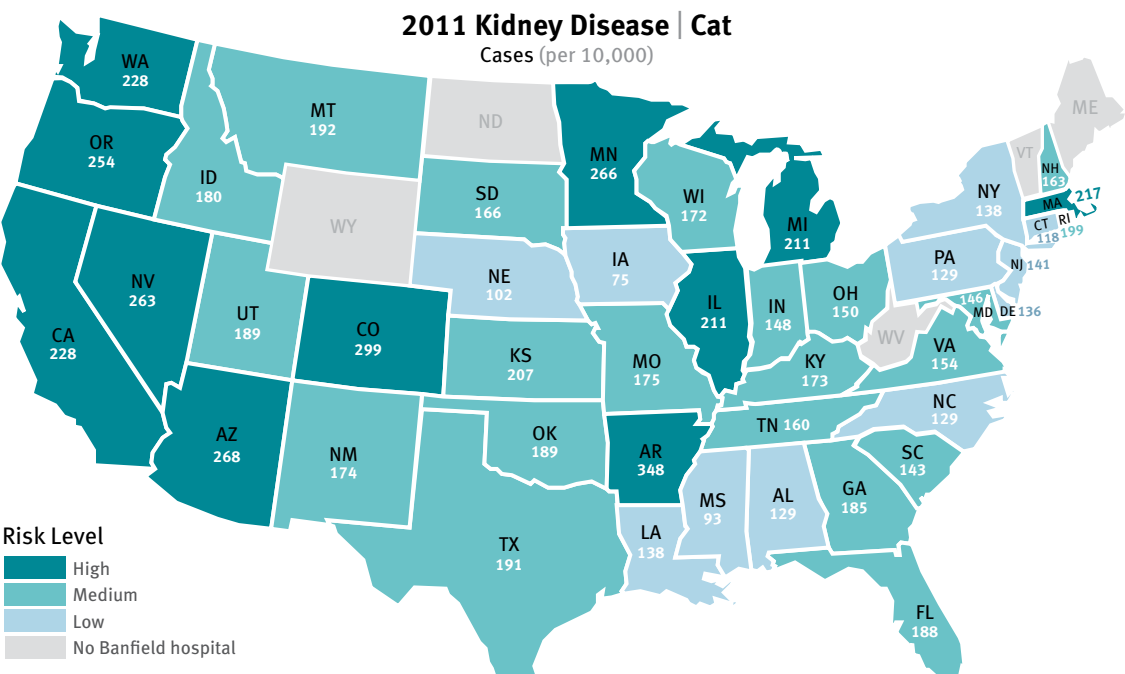
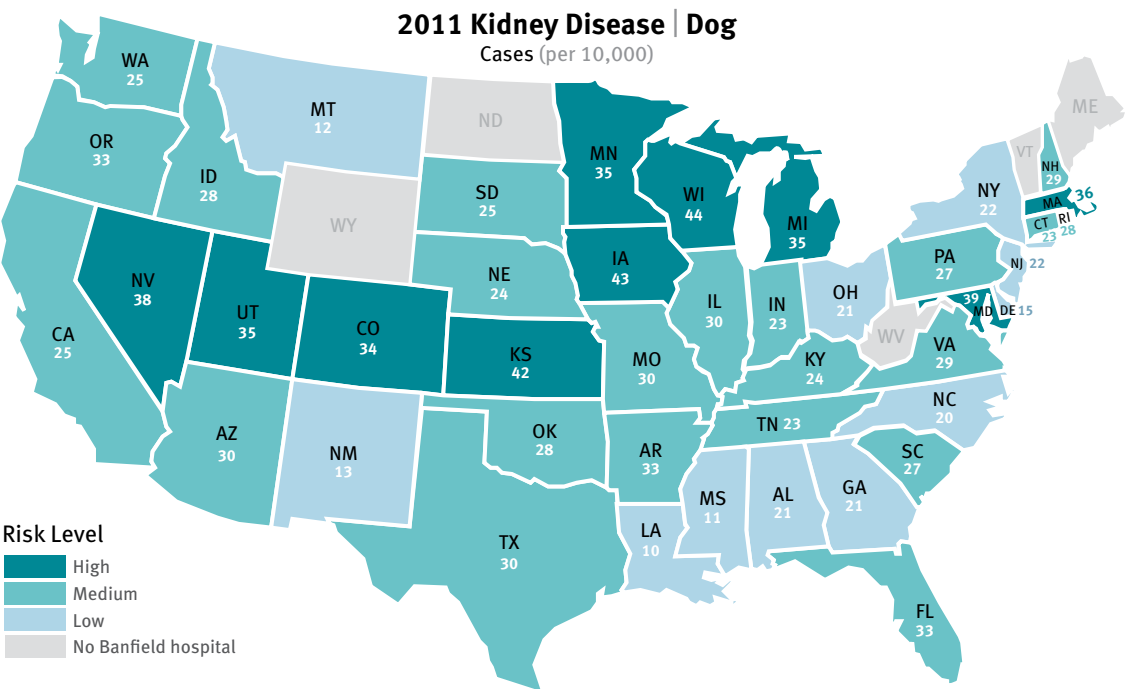
Key takeaway: Despite the low overall prevalence over the last five years, kidney disease can be a serious problem for geriatric dogs. In fact, since 2007 the prevalence increased almost 22 percent in this age group.

**Kidney Disease | Cat | 5-Year Trend**

Cases (per 10,000)



Key takeaway: The prevalence of kidney disease in cats is on the rise with a 15 percent increase since 2007. Most cats diagnosed in the early stages of chronic kidney disease live about two to three years, whereas most cats diagnosed in later stages live less than six months after diagnosis.



thyroid disease

Thyroid disease is a hormonal disorder that affects cats and dogs in different ways. The thyroid gland is small, but plays a major role in maintaining a pet's health—just as it does in humans. The thyroid gland is responsible for producing hormones that help to regulate a pet's metabolism.

In dogs, the most common thyroid disease is hypothyroidism, in which the thyroid gland does not produce enough hormones. Low levels of thyroid hormones cause the metabolism to slow down.

Treatment of hypothyroidism typically involves oral medication, with regular examinations to ensure healthy hormone levels are maintained.

On the contrary, in cats, the most common thyroid condition is hyperthyroidism, in which the thyroid gland produces more hormones than a cat needs, causing the metabolism to speed up. This is seen most commonly in senior cats. If left untreated, hyperthyroidism can result in heart failure, kidney disease, high blood pressure and other life-threatening conditions. Several treatment options are available for hyperthyroidism, including surgical removal of the thyroid gland, radiation treatment, oral medications or nutritional management. Successful management of these chronic conditions depends on early diagnosis and treatment.

Signs of thyroid disease

In the case of **hypothyroidism** (dogs), signs to look for at home include: sleeping more than usual, tiredness, weight gain (often rapid), seeking out warmth (e.g., sitting by a heat vent), dry skin, hair loss and discoloration or thickening of the skin where hair loss has occurred.

Signs of **hyperthyroidism** (cats) include weight loss, diarrhea, vomiting, increased appetite, increased thirst, increased urination, restlessness, and a matted or greasy coat or unkempt appearance.

Bottom line

Hypothyroidism (dogs)

- In 2011, approximately 1 in every 200 dogs had hypothyroidism—a 6 percent increase since 2007.
- States at the top of the list in 2011 for high prevalence of hypothyroidism were South Dakota, Mississippi and Arkansas.
- ▶ More than half (61 percent) of dogs with hypothyroidism in 2011 were also overweight.

Hyperthyroidism (cats)

- In 2011, approximately 1 in every 100 cats had hyperthyroidism—a 13 percent increase since 2007.
- In 2011, the states with the highest prevalence of hyperthyroidism were South Dakota, Montana and Massachusetts.

Pet/breed sizes prone to this disease



Pet owner perception:

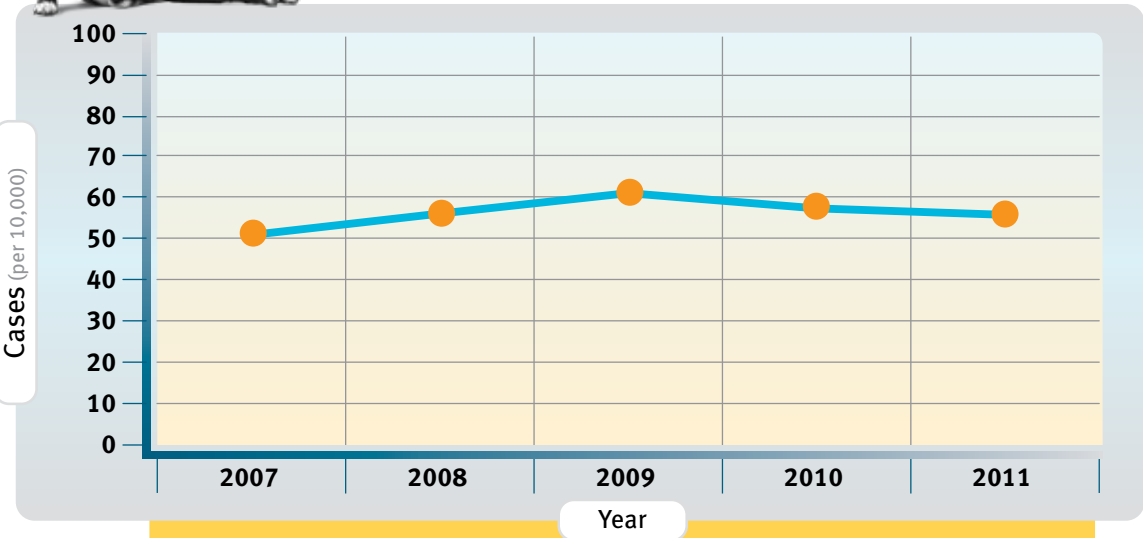
THYROID DISEASE: 4 in 5 cat owners are not aware that changes in a cat's coat or unusual urination habits are highly visible signs associated with hyperthyroidism.

Less than half of cat owners (45%) realize that changes in appetite can also be a sign of this condition.



Hypothyroidism | Dog | 5-Year Trend

Cases (per 10,000)

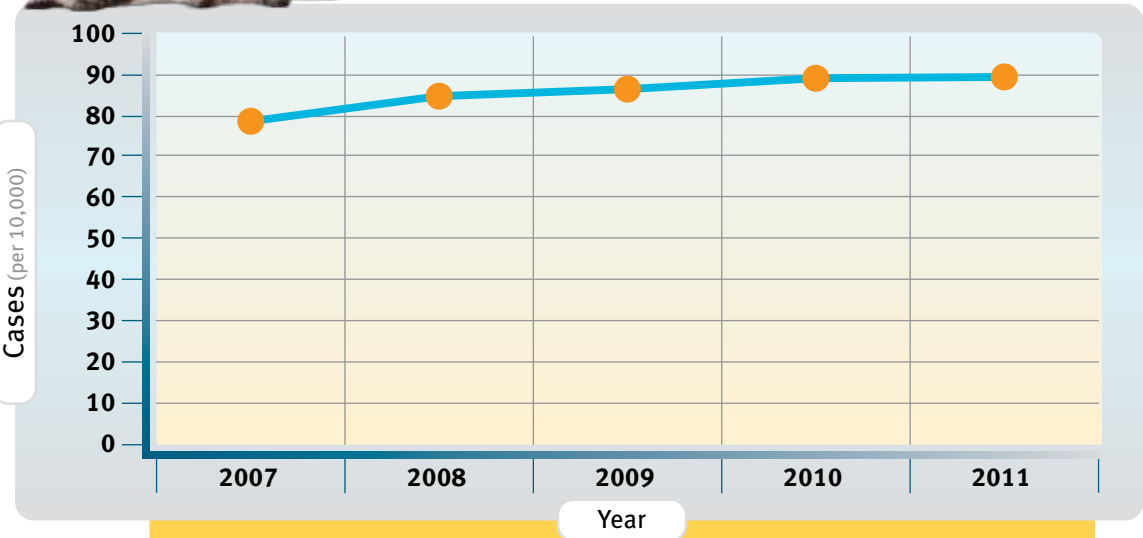


Key takeaway: The prevalence of hypothyroidism has remained fairly stable over the last five years; however, there has been an increase of 26 percent among geriatric dogs since 2007. This disease is relatively easy to diagnose and manage, which is why it's important to detect it early in order to help dogs live a healthy life.

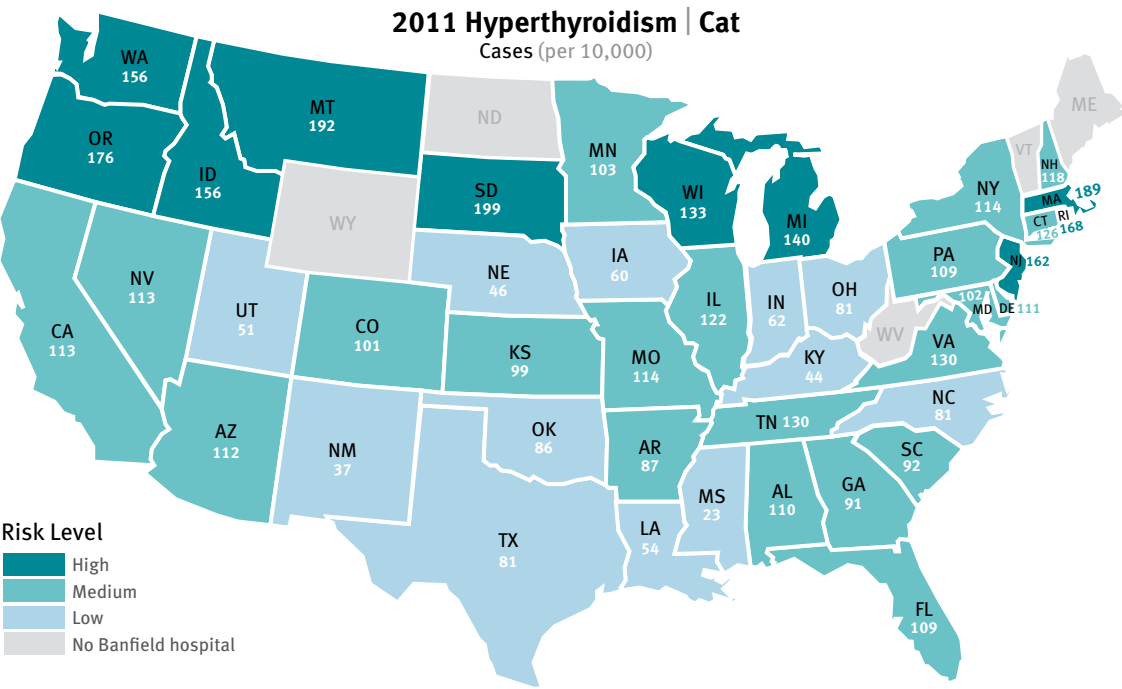
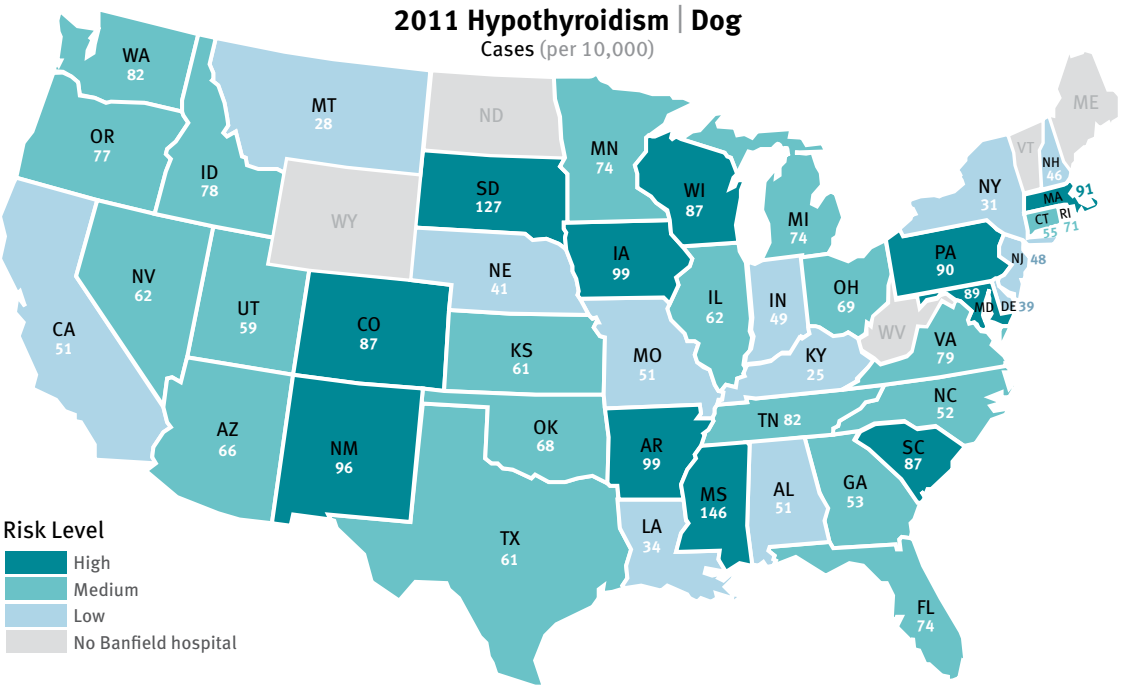


Hyperthyroidism | Cat | 5-Year Trend

Cases (per 10,000)



Key takeaway: Since 2007, the prevalence of hyperthyroidism has increased in cats; there has been a 19 percent increase in mature adult cats and a 13 percent increase in geriatric cats. Because hyperthyroidism is associated with other serious diseases, such as kidney and heart disease, it is particularly important to detect hyperthyroidism early through routine examinations.



heart disease

Hear disease is a problem in dogs and cats, just as it is in people. Because the physical signs of the disease may not be visible, especially in early stages, it is important that pets see a veterinarian for regular examinations. Left undetected, heart disease can lead to heart failure. However, early diagnosis has the potential to increase the length and quality of a pet's life.

Heart disease can include disease of the heart muscle or valves—the disease affects cats and dogs differently. In all forms, the disease makes it difficult for the heart to pump blood through the body. As with many other diseases, dogs and cats may also be born with abnormal hearts or may develop heart conditions as they age.

Pet owners may not be aware their pet has heart disease, especially in the case of cats that show no signs until the disease has progressed. Veterinarians sometimes detect the disease during routine examinations. However, diagnosis is most often made through chest X-rays, an electrocardiograph (ECG) or an ultrasound test.

Signs of heart disease

At home, pet owners can watch for signs of fatigue or difficulty breathing (especially during play or exercise), as well as coughing or fainting.

Preventive recommendation

Some types of heart disease may be avoided by ensuring pets, especially cats, receive the nutrients they

need. For this reason, pet owners who choose to feed home-made diets should consult with a veterinarian to ensure their pets' dietary needs are met.

Bottom line

- Heart disease is three times as likely to be detected in dogs as it is in cats.
- ▶ Almost one-third of dogs (28 percent) and nearly one-quarter of cats (25 percent) with cardiomyopathy (a type of heart disease) also have periodontal disease.

Pet/breed sizes prone to this disease



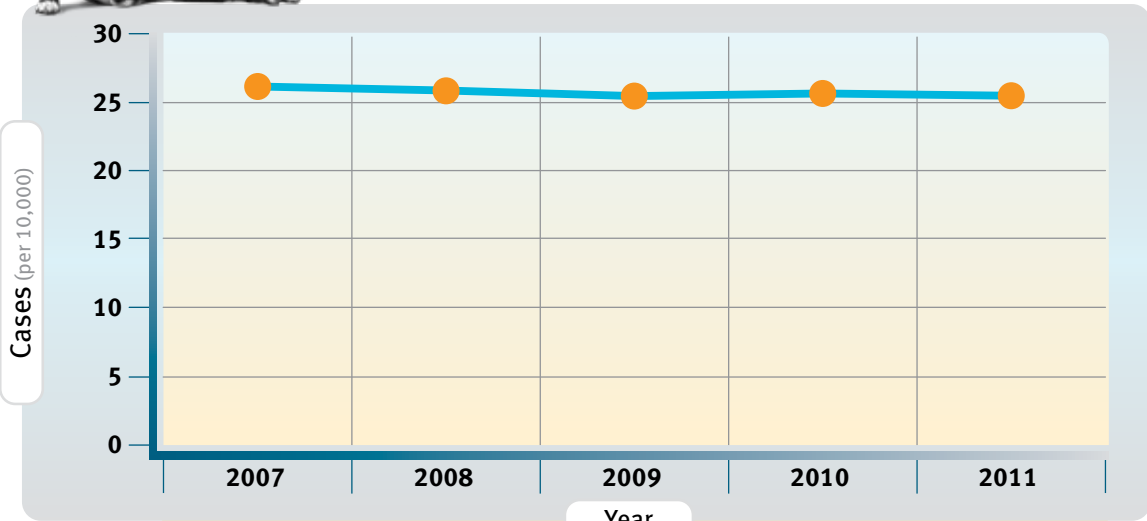
Pet owner perception:

DOGS: Nearly 4 in 5 dog owners are not aware that vomiting, dental disease or weight loss can be associated with heart disease; almost half (49%) of dog owners are not aware that aging can also be associated with heart disease.

CATS: At least 3 in 4 cat owners are not aware that vomiting, dental disease or weight loss can be associated with heart disease; over half (54%) of cat owners are not aware that aging can also be associated with heart disease.



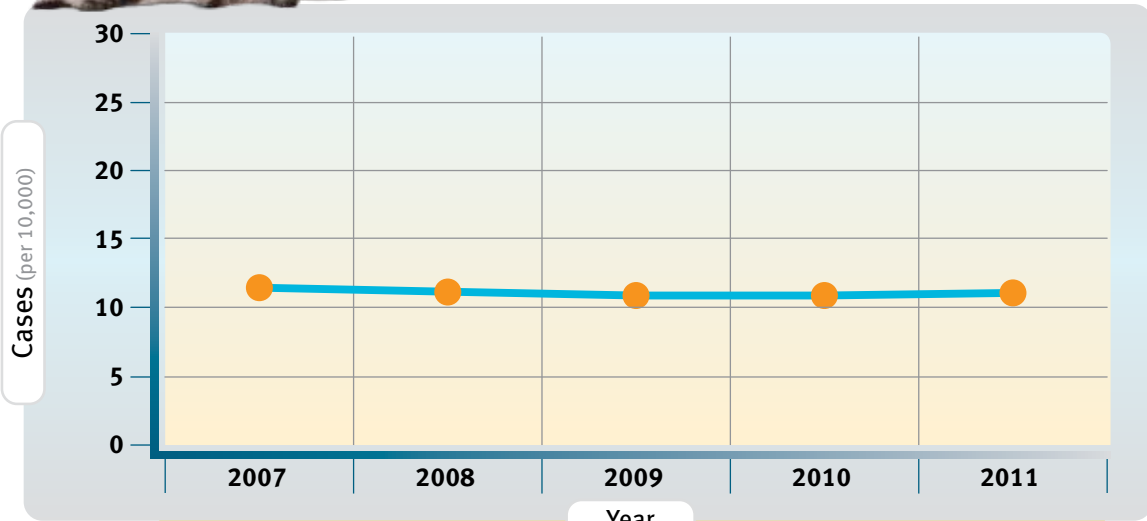
Heart Disease | Dog | 5-Year Trend
Cases (per 10,000)



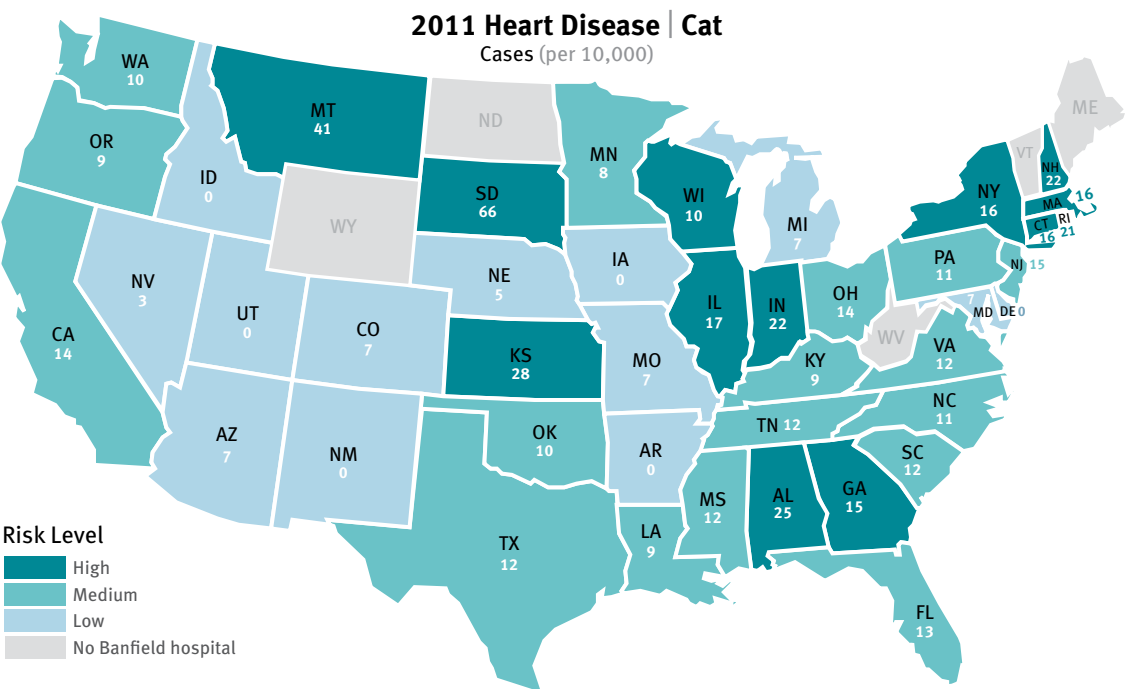
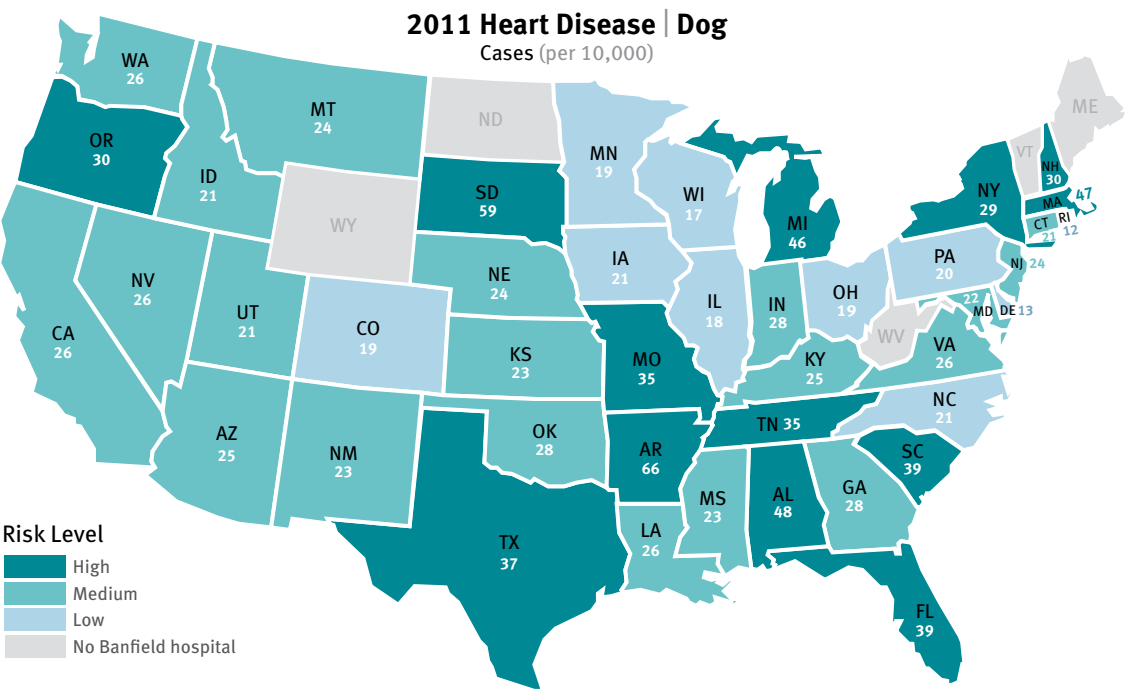
Key takeaway: Although the prevalence of heart disease has remained stable and fairly low over the past five years, particular breeds of dogs are at high risk, including Doberman Pinschers and Cavalier King Charles Spaniels.



Heart Disease | Cat | 5-Year Trend
Cases (per 10,000)



Key takeaway: In general, heart disease continues to be an uncommon diagnosis in cats and certain heart conditions have even decreased in prevalence. Cardiomyopathy, a type of heart disease, has decreased almost 14 percent since 2007.



Banfield Pet Hospital is committed to partnering with pet owners and the profession to help reduce the number of pets living with undiagnosed or unmanaged chronic diseases. It is our hope that this year's report will be beneficial in educating pet owners and veterinarians about chronic diseases affecting dogs and cats.

It's important to understand that chronic diseases affect pets of all ages and breeds; however, some age groups and breeds are more prone to certain diseases than others. Pet owners most often bring puppies and kittens to the veterinarian for regular and preventive care, up to 1 year of age. But while the potential for chronic diseases increases with age, veterinary visits decline as a pet ages. This is

why Banfield emphasizes the importance of routine veterinary care at least twice a year, which allows for early disease detection and diagnosis and helps pets remain healthy during all life stages.

Most importantly, Banfield believes partnering with pet owners is the best way to keep pets healthy for years to come. Pet owners play a critical role in early disease diagnosis, as they have the ability to identify changes in a pet's overall health and behavior on a regular basis at home. By better educating pet owners about the signs of important chronic diseases, pets will have a better chance of living a happy, healthy life.



We would like to extend a big thank-you to the talented associates at Banfield Pet Hospital who contributed to the *State of Pet Health 2012 Report*:

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