Due to the fact that dogs and cats age much faster than humans—one year for a human is roughly five to seven years for a dog or cat—it’s especially important that pet owners understand the potential factors that may impact how long their pets live. The lifespan of a dog or a cat can be impacted by various factors including genetics, whether or not a dog or cat is spayed or neutered, the amount of preventive veterinary care received, and, of course, breed type and size. The geographic location where a pet lives may also impact its life or be Influenced by preventable diseases or factors that may cause disease in certain areas of the country such as the Northwest (people diseases) and the Southeast (heart disease). Heartworm infection is one of the top three conditions or diagnoses for pets seen in Banfield hospitals in the Southern states including Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama, among others. These three Southern states had the shortest lifespan for dogs in 2012—Louisiana and Mississippi also had the bottom two states for lifespan in cats.

**Lifespan estimates are based on our analysis of the Banfield database—11 years of age**

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**BREED CHART**

Dogs and cats can be prone to certain diseases based on their breed, age or sex. In some cases, certain breeds may be more likely to exhibit undesirable behaviors such as roaming, urine marking or fighting. Spaying female pets eliminates the risk of pyometra, a life-threatening infection of the uterus. If a female is spayed after 6 months of age, she is likely to exhibit undesirable behaviors such as roaming, urine marking or fighting.

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**SPAY & NEUTER**

While it is not possible to predict the lifespan of a pet, there are many preventable diseases and conditions that impact a pet’s overall health and well-being, which may influence life expectancy. Some of the most significant findings in this year’s report include the impact spaying or neutering has on a pet’s lifespan.

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**STATES WITH THE SHORTEST LIFESPAN**

The State of Pet Health 2013 Report features an exclusive look at the lifespan of both dogs and cats and provides additional insight into the overall health of our pet population. Although considerable differences in lifespan were highlighted in comparisons of pets by year, sex, reproductive status, breed size and state of residence, the factors underlying these differences remain to be identified. In our ongoing commitment to improving the health and well-being of pets, the BARK team is following up on this report’s findings by thoroughly investigating factors that might influence lifespan in dogs and cats—factors such as body condition that, when effectively managed, may help keep pets with their owners longer. We look forward to sharing the results of these studies with pet owners and the veterinary community in early 2014.

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**LOOKING AHEAD**

Banfield Pet Hospital is committed to improving the health and well-being of pets everywhere, and we are equally dedicated to uncovering the factors that shorten their lifespan. While it is not possible to predict the lifespan of a pet, there are many preventable diseases and conditions that impact a pet’s overall health and well-being, which may influence life expectancy. Some of the most significant findings in this year’s report include the impact spaying or neutering has on a pet’s lifespan.

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**BANFIELD PET HOSPITAL**

State of Pet Health 2013 Report
Welcome to Banfield Pet Hospital’s State of Pet Health 2013 Report—the only report of its kind to capture and analyze the medical data from nearly 2.2 million dogs and 460,000 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 third year.

### about banfield

As a great love, our focus is making a better world for pets by delivering high-quality veterinary medicine and providing 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. Banfield believes preventive care improves the quality and longevity of a pet’s life by reducing the risk of developing serious, costly and sometimes fatal diseases—many of which are preventable or, without treatment, can become chronic. This is why Banfield emphasizes the importance of twice-annual preventive care and early disease diagnosis to positively impact a pet’s overall health and well-being. We believe that regular preventive care and early disease diagnosis will positively impact a pet’s health and lifespan.

Banfield’s veterinarians and paraprofessionals use PetWare, Banfield’s proprietary state-of-the-art electronics 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). 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. The BARK team analyzes the medical data of more than 7 million pet visits each year. Banfield hospitals’ participation in each year’s survey has enabled us to gather valuable insights into diseases affecting cats and dogs.

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 Inc. incorporated family of businesses with the common goal of providing high-quality veterinary care and nutrition to companion animals.

### 2012 at a glance

#### The average lifespan of a cat in 2012 was 12 years—up 1 year since 2007.

- Size does matter! Toy/small breed dogs live longer than giant breeds.

#### Most common diagnoses 2012 | cat

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Diagnosis Type</th>
<th>Proportion of Patients (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Heart Murmur</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diabetes Mellitus</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kidney Disease</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arthritis</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dental Disease</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### States with the longest lifespan for cats

- Montana and Oregon are tied for the highest percentage of geriatric cats at 24%.
- Nestored male cats live longer than unneutered males. 62% larger.
- Spayed female cats live longer than unneutered females. 39% larger.

#### States with the shortest lifespan for cats

- 2 of the 5 states with the shortest lifespan for dogs have the highest number of unneutered and unspayed dogs.

#### States with the longest lifespan for dogs

- The average lifespan of a dog in 2012 was 11 years—up nearly half a year since 2007.
- Oregon has the highest percentage of geriatric dogs at 13%.

#### States with the longest lifespan for dogs

- Nestored male dogs live longer than unneutered males. 18% larger.
- Spayed female dogs live longer than unneutered females. 23% larger.

### common diseases

- **Overweight & Obesity**: 37% in dogs & 36% in cats
- **Arthritis**: 38% in dogs & 67% in cats
- **Kidney Disease**: 7% in dogs & 6% in cats
- **Diabetes Mellitus**: 2% in dogs & 3% in cats
- **Heart Murmur**: 4% in dogs & 3% in cats
- **Heartworm Disease**: 1% in dogs & 0% in cats
- **Dental Disease**: 9% in all dogs & 8% in cats

#### Animal-related infections

- **Bacterial Infection**: 9% in dogs & 12% in cats
- **Fungal Infection**: 8% in dogs & 9% in cats
- **Protozoal Infection**: 8% in dogs & 9% in cats

#### Parasitic Infections

- **Tapeworms**: 12% in dogs & 10% in cats
- **Heartworm**: 2% in dogs & 0% in cats
- **Dirofilaria immitis**: 1% in dogs & 1% in cats

#### Other Common and Chronic Diseases

- **Alopecia (loss of hair)**
- **Colitis (large bowel disease)**
- **Conjunctivitis (eye infection)**
- **Dental Tartar**
- **Dermatitis (skin disease)**
- **Gastritis (stomach irritation)**
- **Gastroenteritis (stomach flu)**
- **Hypertension (high blood pressure)**
- **Hyperthyroidism (overactive thyroid)**
- **Hypothyroidism (underactive thyroid)**
- **Kidney Disease**
- **Liver Disease**
- **Obesity**
- **Osteoarthritis (joint disease)**
- **Pancreatitis (stomach inflammation)**
- **Polycythemia (abnormally high red blood cells)**
- **Renal Cancer (kidney cancer)**
- **Thyroid Cancer (underactive thyroid)**

How does your state rank in pet health? Learn more about the common and chronic diseases and conditions affecting pets in the U.S. as well as how each state ranks at StateofPetHealth.com.