

# Getting ahead of the curve to help dogs stay healthy

With **more than half** of all pets in the US and UK considered to be overweight or have obesity, it's clear new owners need to start healthy habits early.

## Did you know...

**1** Many of the health issues that dogs manifest early in life are associated with delayed or accelerated growth.

These include:



Joint and mobility issues



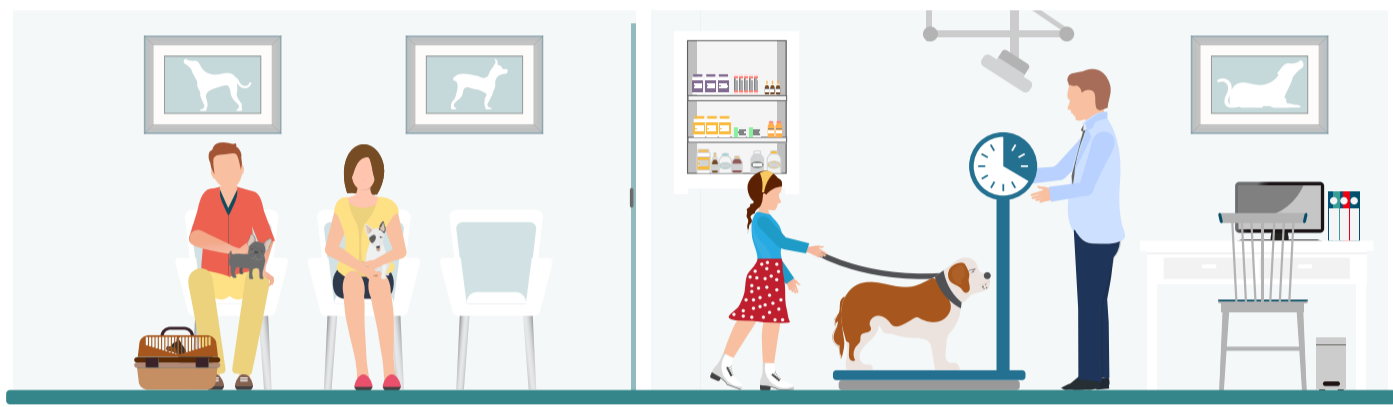
Muscle and bone disease



Issues with heart development



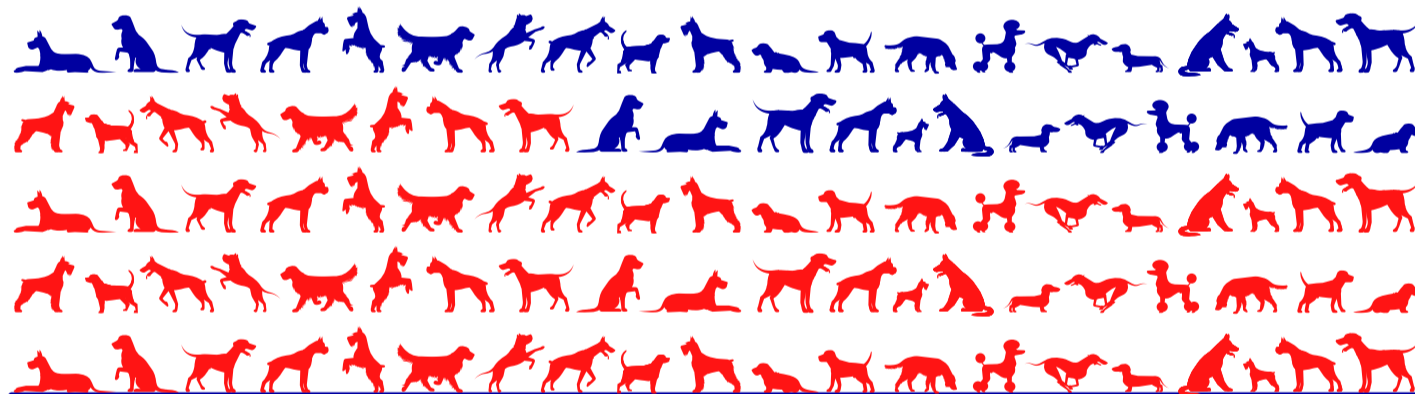
Excess weight and obesity



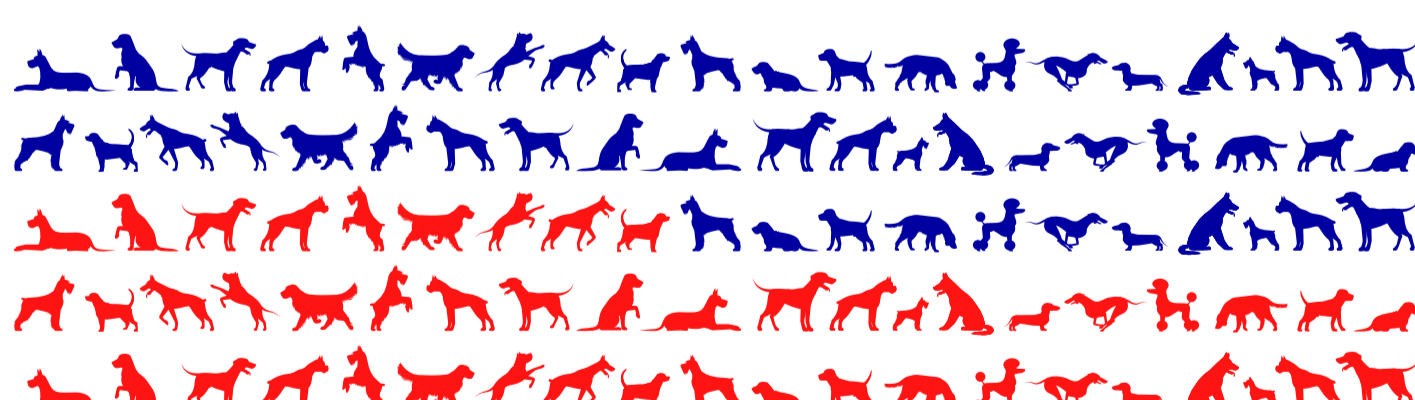
**2** Being overweight can shorten a dog's lifespan by up to 2.5 years depending on breed.



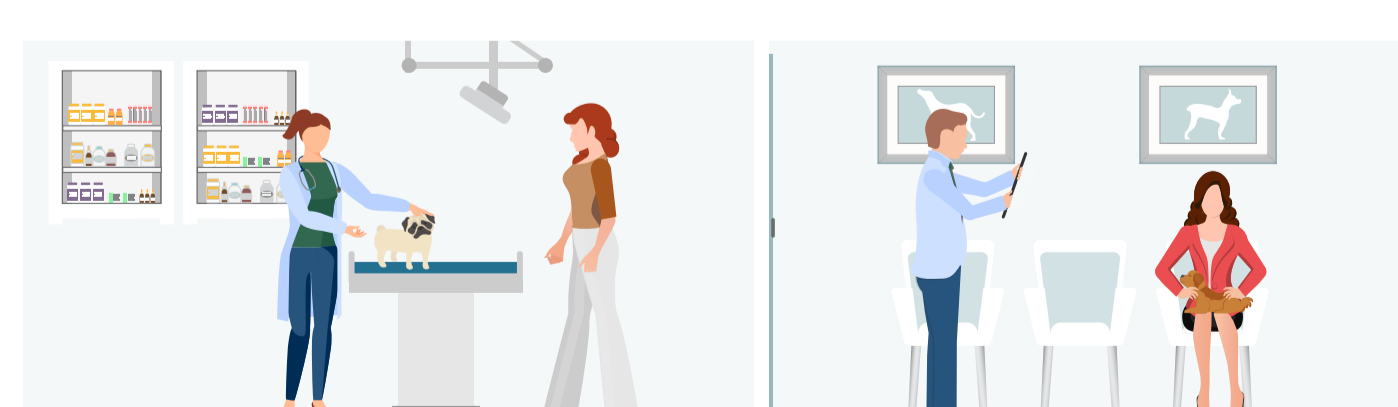
**3** A new study of evidence-based growth charts compared growth patterns of healthy and unhealthy dogs, showing 68% of dogs that were obese by 3 years of age crossed two or more centiles (the lines on the growth charts), suggesting they had grown too quickly.



**4** Almost half (49%) of dogs that became underweight by 3 years of age crossed two or more centiles downward, putting them at risk for bone disease, endocrine disease and cardiovascular disease.



**5** Our **research** suggests that evidence-based growth standards can potentially help veterinarians and pet owners understand and monitor puppies' healthy growth early on.



Just like with humans, preventing obesity in puppies is easier than treating it. The growth standards we've developed in partnership with the University of Liverpool and Banfield Pet Hospital® are a key part of how we're leveraging data science to live our Purpose: A BETTER WORLD FOR PETS™.

You can learn more about healthy weight management for puppies and download the easy-to-use **WALTHAM™ Puppy Growth Charts** at [waltham.com](http://waltham.com).