

# BANFIELD PET HOSPITAL® State of Pet Health 2013 Report

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 is especially important that pet owners understand the potential factors that may impact how long their pet lives. The lifespan of a dog or 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 his or her lifespan due to preventable diseases plaguing certain parts of the United States. Preventable diseases such as heartworm disease and Lyme disease are life-threatening and may play a role in a reduced lifespan in certain areas of the country such as the Northeast (Lyme disease) and the Southeast (heartworm 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 were also the bottom two states for lifespan in cats.

Lifespan estimates are based on age at euthanasia for Banfield patients > 1 year of age.

## breed chart

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 and have a significant impact on their overall lifespan. The bottom-line is that size does matter! Toy/small breed dogs, such as a Chihuahua and Shih Tzu, live 41 percent longer than giant breed dogs, such as a Great Dane or St. Bernard. As a result of their shorter lifespan, giant breed dogs can be expected to reach their senior years much earlier than small breed dogs do (i.e., at 6 years of age rather than 10 years of age), which means they are likely to develop aging-associated diseases such as arthritis or kidney disease earlier than small breeds as well. As such, breed and breed size are important in understanding the diseases or conditions to which a dog may be predisposed.

### cat

**average weight: 10 lbs**  
**average lifespan: 12.1 yrs**  
COMMON BREEDS: Domestic Shorthair, Domestic Medium Hair, Domestic Longhair  
COMMON NAMES: Kitty, Bella, Tiger, Max  
COMMON DIAGNOSES: Feline respiratory virus, Kidney disease, Tapeworms

### toy/small

**weight: <20 lbs**  
**average lifespan: 11.3 yrs**  
COMMON BREEDS: Chihuahua, Scottish Terrier, Shih Tzu, Yorkshire Terrier  
COMMON NAMES: Bella, Max, Buddy, Daisy  
COMMON DIAGNOSES: Dental tartar, Patellar luxation (kneecap pops out of place), Retained baby teeth

### medium

**weight: 20-50 lbs**  
**average lifespan: 10.8 yrs**  
COMMON BREEDS: Beagle, Boxer, Cocker Spaniel, Pit Bull  
COMMON NAMES: Bella, Max, Buddy, Daisy  
COMMON DIAGNOSES: Conjunctivitis (eye infection), Dermatitis (skin inflammation), Fleas

### large

**weight: 50-90 lbs**  
**average lifespan: 11.1 yrs**  
COMMON BREEDS: German Shepherd, Golden Retriever, Labrador Retriever, Rottweiler  
COMMON NAMES: Bella, Max, Buddy, Sadie  
COMMON DIAGNOSES: Dental tartar, Otitis externa (ear infection), Overweight

### giant

**weight: >90 lbs**  
**average lifespan: 8 yrs**  
COMMON BREEDS: Great Dane, Great Pyrenees, Mastiff, St. Bernard  
COMMON NAMES: Bella, Bear, Max, Roxy  
COMMON DIAGNOSES: Dermatitis (skin inflammation), Lameness, Skin tumor



**Spot, 20, Bozeman, Montana**  
Spot is patient, loving and a little bit predatory. He stays fit by stalking the occasional bird but only dreams of actually catching one. As a kitten he tolerated being dressed up like a doll, but preferred to remain a cat. He currently spends his days playing with a piece of yarn, dining on food specially made for seniors and sunbathing on the porch.  
Banfield Optimum Wellness Plan client since 2007



**Muffins, 22, Chicago, Illinois**  
Muffins was named after eating a whole bag of baked goods. Born the runt of the litter, he quickly grew into his big, bullish personality. Quick to adapt to any situation, Muffins is currently living in his seventh home with his one loving owner. At 22 years of age, Muffins has outlived three other pets and several foster cats.  
Banfield client since 2004

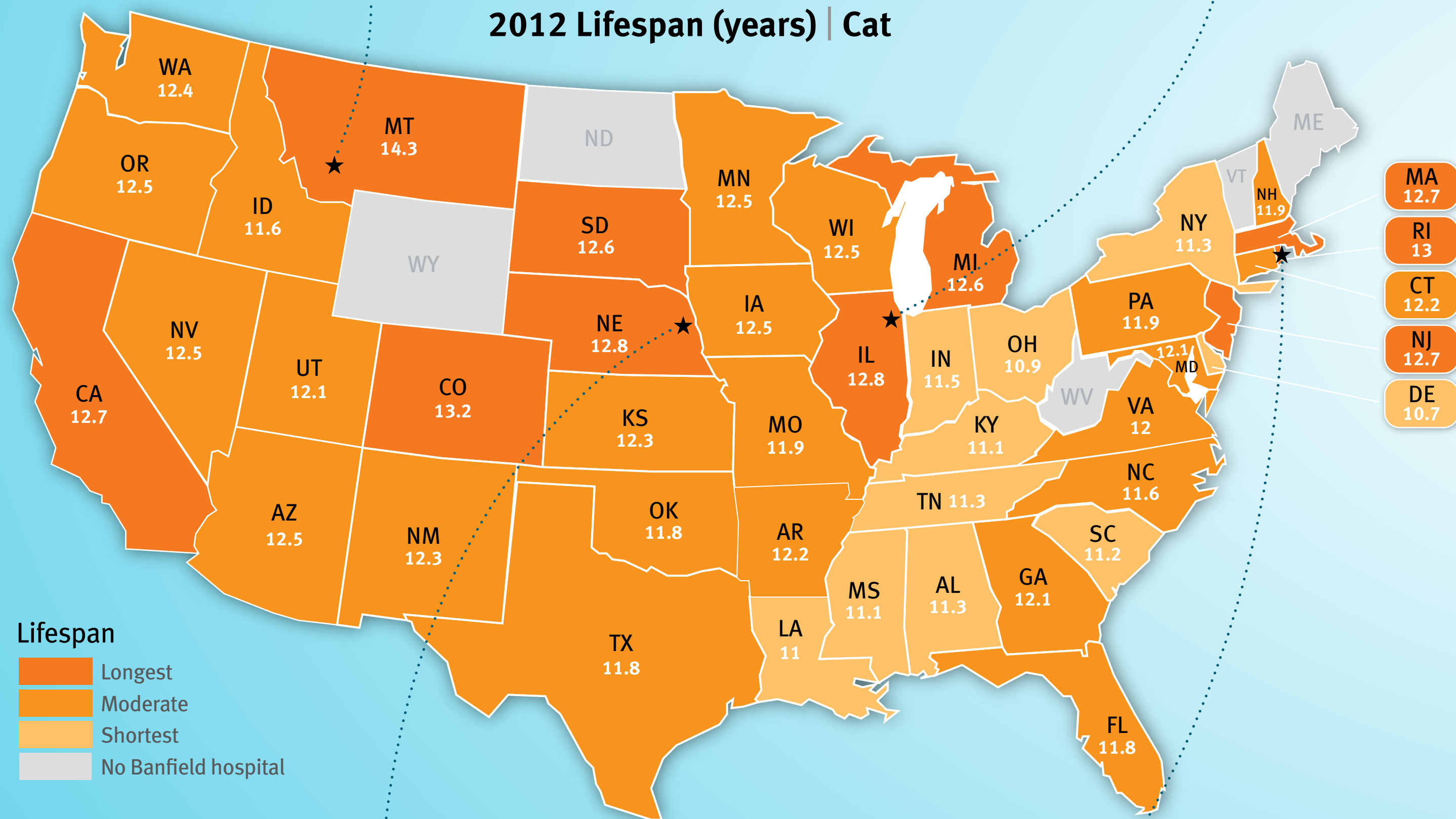


**Ginger, 19, Miniature Pincher, Medford, Oregon**  
A little grumpy in her younger years, Ginger has become quite the loving and loyal companion. Possibly the only dog to prefer cats over humans, Ginger spent many hours cuddling her favorite feline companion, Tiger. Today, Ginger is known as her owner's shadow and rarely leaves her owner's side (unless it's for a bite of spaghetti).  
Banfield Optimum Wellness Plan client since 2003

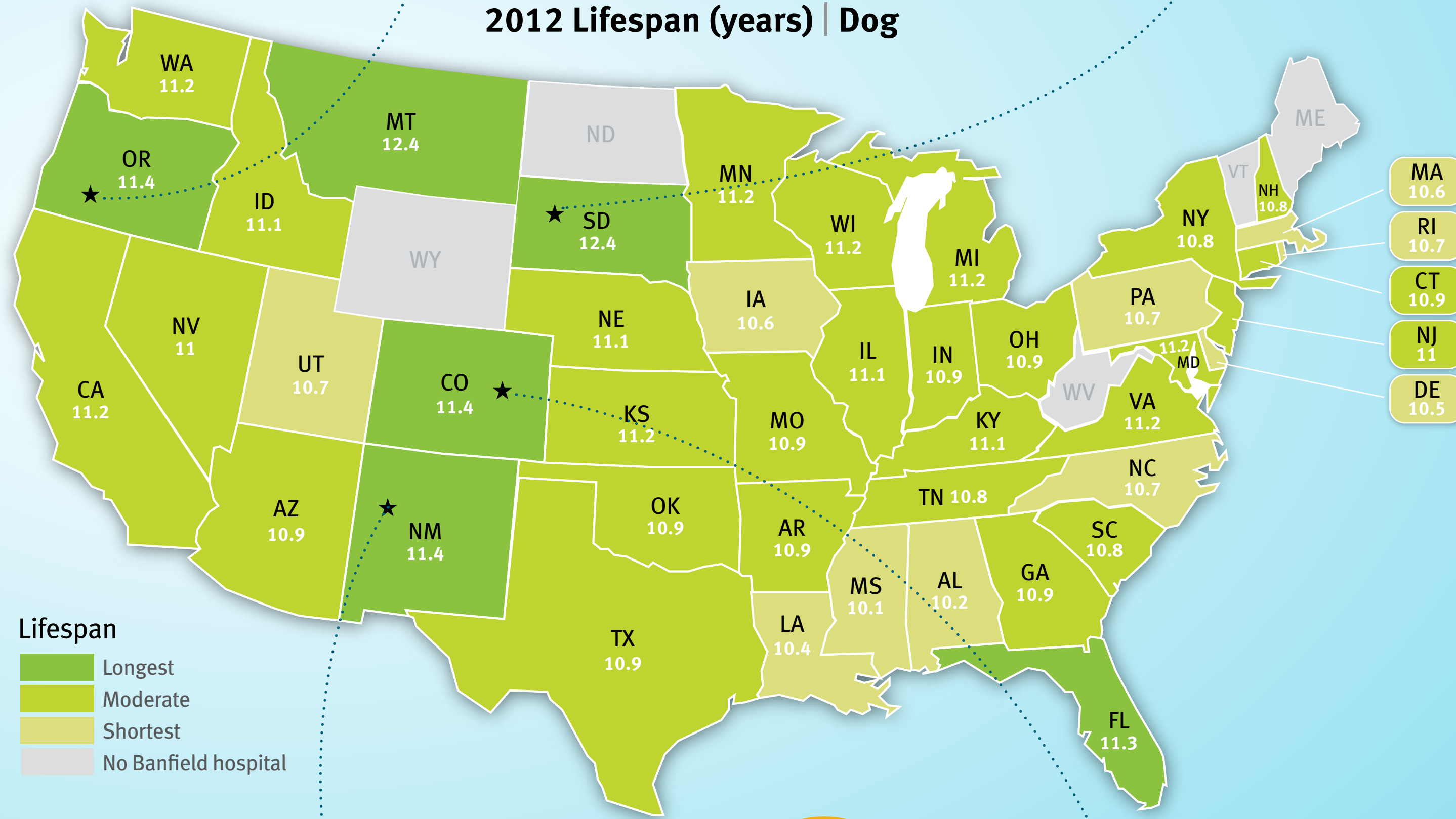


**Julius Caesar, 18, Yorkshire Terrier, Rapid City, South Dakota**  
Julius Caesar loves sitting on laps, sniffing the yard and wrestling. He successfully trained two humans to wait on him and has an actual seat at the dinner table. He also has been known to enjoy a motorcycle ride and regularly snacks on baby carrots.  
Banfield client since 2008

## 2012 Lifespan (years) | Cat



## 2012 Lifespan (years) | Dog



**Zoe, 18, Omaha, Nebraska**  
Zoe has particular tastes and a subjective personality with humans and with food. She shows love by "head butting" in exchange for quality belly rubs. She is particularly fond of being warm and is most often found sleeping by the vent or snuggling with her owners.  
Banfield Optimum Wellness Plan client since 2009



**Nemesis, 21, Johnston, Rhode Island**  
Quite the practical joker, Nemesis loves to climb to high places and jump in front of unsuspecting people. He enjoys walking on a leash and is known for ruling the house with an iron paw. He's also been known to chew on rawhide and snack on the occasional Scrabble dictionary (that's actually how he got his name!).  
Banfield client since 2011



**Poncho, 18, Chihuahua, Albuquerque, New Mexico**  
Extremely energetic and a happy boy, Poncho loves playing tag with his owner's 3-year-old granddaughter and following his owner everywhere. After long days of rolling in the grass and lying in the sun, Poncho refuels his energy by snacking on carrots and apples.  
Banfield Optimum Wellness Plan client since 2011

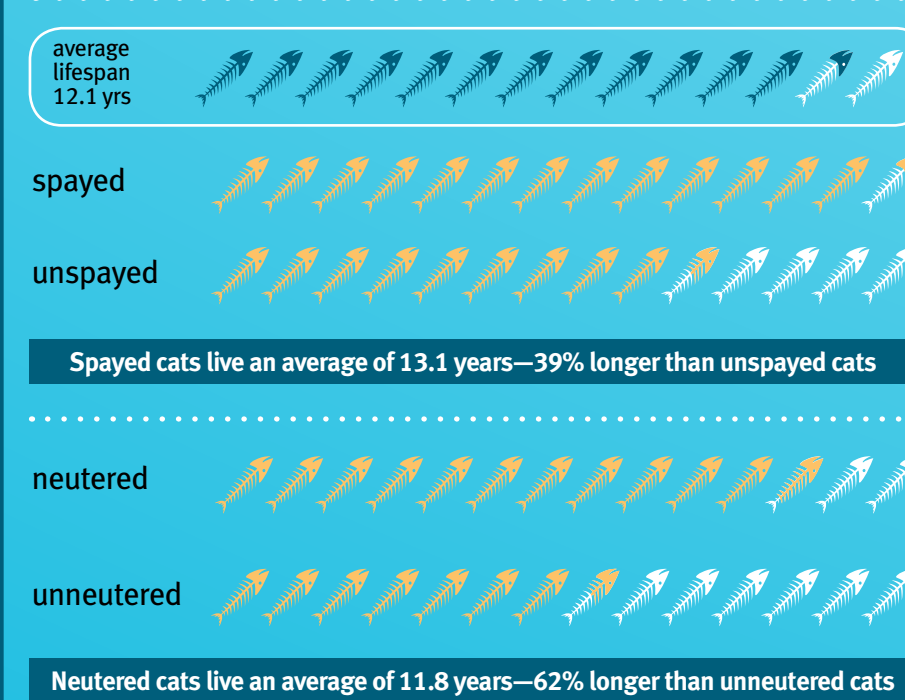


**Daisy and Cupid, 17, Shih Tzus, Aurora, Colorado**  
Daisy is an extremely loving, gentle and friendly dog. She makes friends with everyone she meets, including a few feathered friends from the neighborhood! Her best friend is her sidekick, Cupid, who is known affectionately as the "ball-of-fluff!" Daisy shows off her boundless energy by running in circles and nibbling on her owner.  
Banfield Optimum Wellness Plan clients since 2008

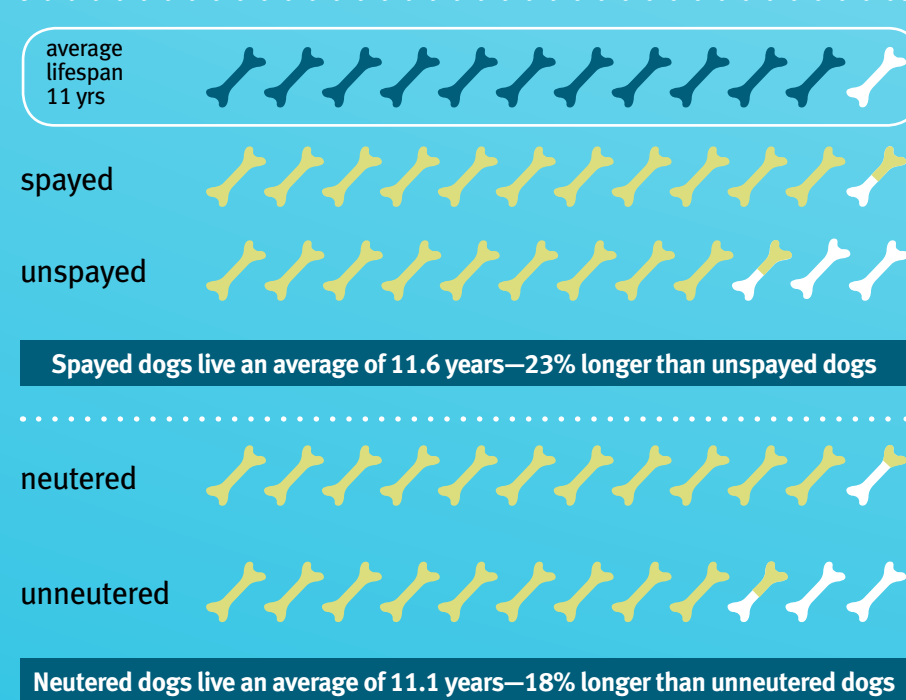
## spay & neuter

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.

### lifespan for cats



### lifespan for dogs

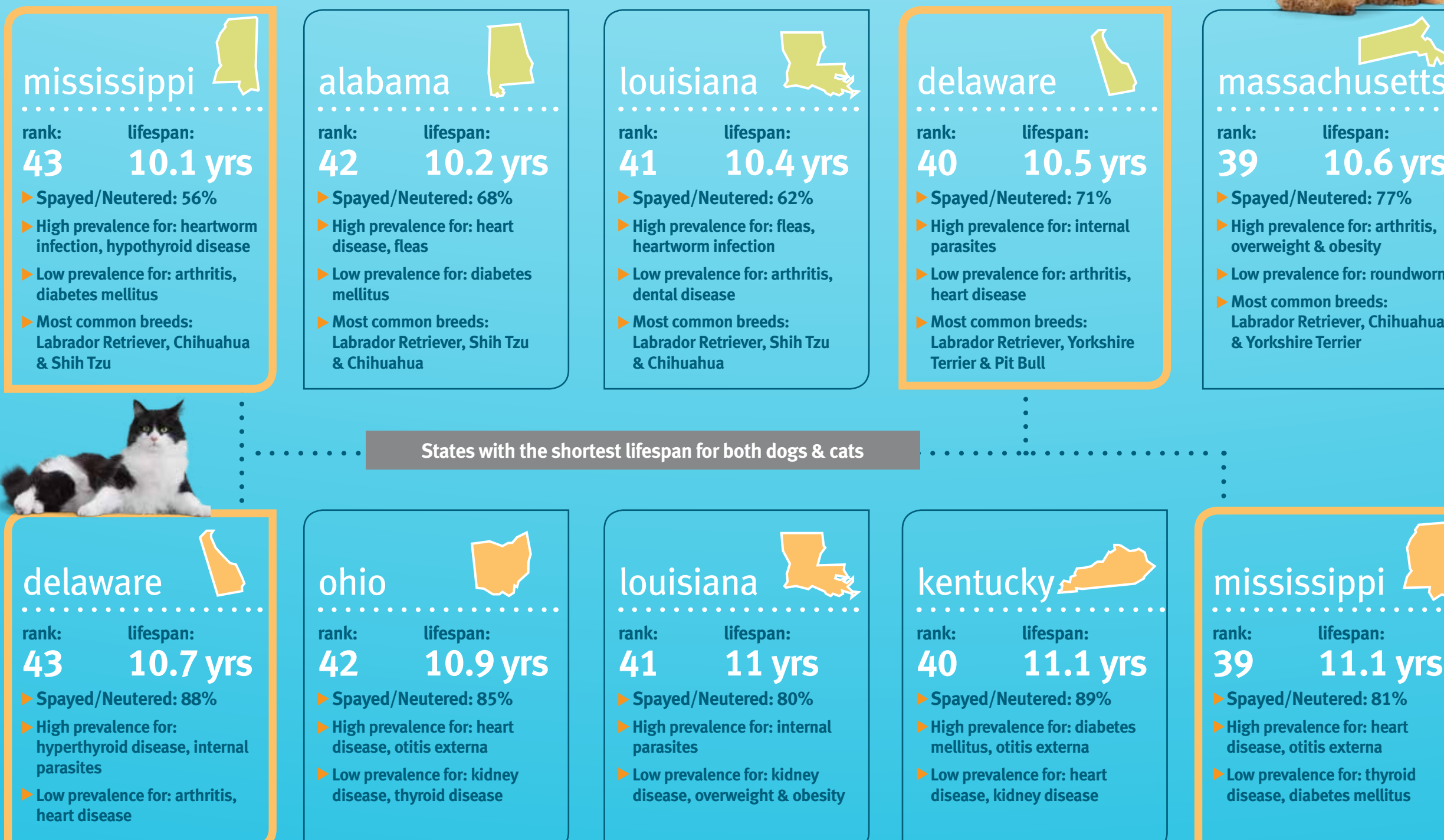


Spaying or neutering provides several advantages that likely contribute to a longer lifespan. Neutering male pets decreases their chances of developing prostatic enlargement and disease and eliminates the risk of testicular cancer. Spaying female pets eliminates the risk of pyometra, a life-threatening infection of the uterus. If a female is spayed before her first heat cycle, chances of developing breast cancer drop dramatically as well. Behavior problems are the primary reason pet owners relinquish their pets to shelters, and pets that haven't been spayed or neutered are more likely to exhibit undesirable behaviors such as roaming, urine marking or fighting.

Banfield patient data also show that unneutered dogs are more than **twice** as likely to be hit by a car or bitten by another animal as neutered dogs. The situation is even worse for cats—unneutered cats have **4 times** the risk of being hit by a car as neutered cats. Unneutered cats are also **3 times** as likely as neutered cats to be brought to the veterinarian for treatment of an animal bite.

## states with the shortest lifespan

(of the 43 states in which Banfield has a hospital)



## 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 threaten their 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.



State of Pet Health Report

For a state-by-state interactive look at pet health, visit [StateofPetHealth.com](http://StateofPetHealth.com) and follow us on [f](#) [t](#)

Banfield PET HOSPITAL

# 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.

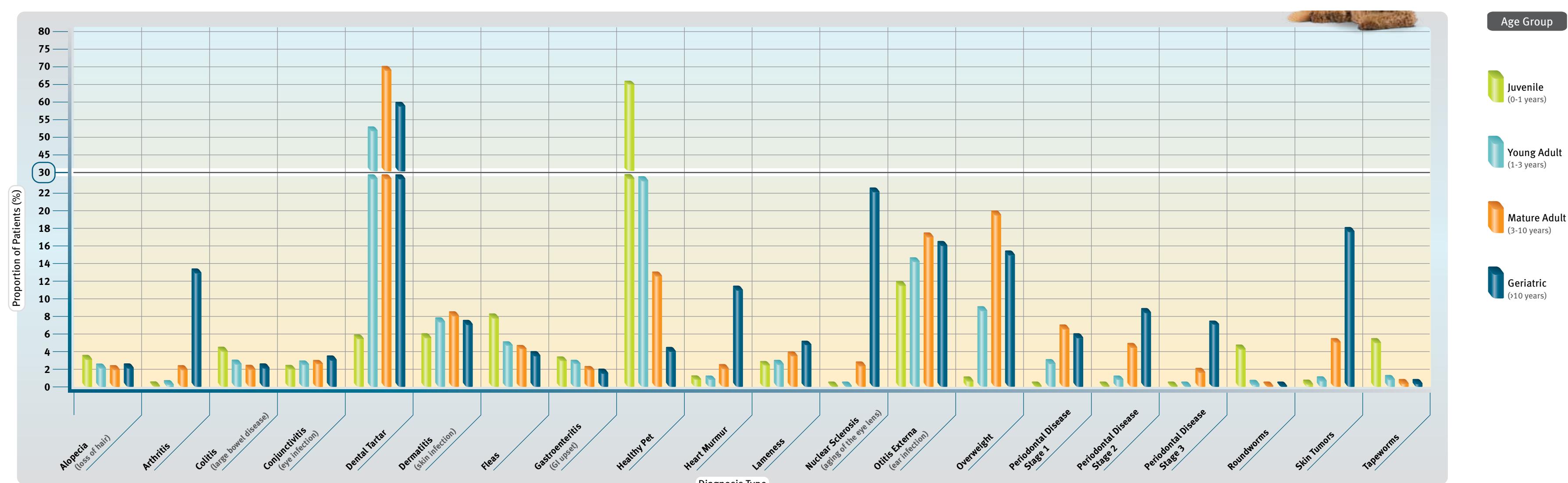
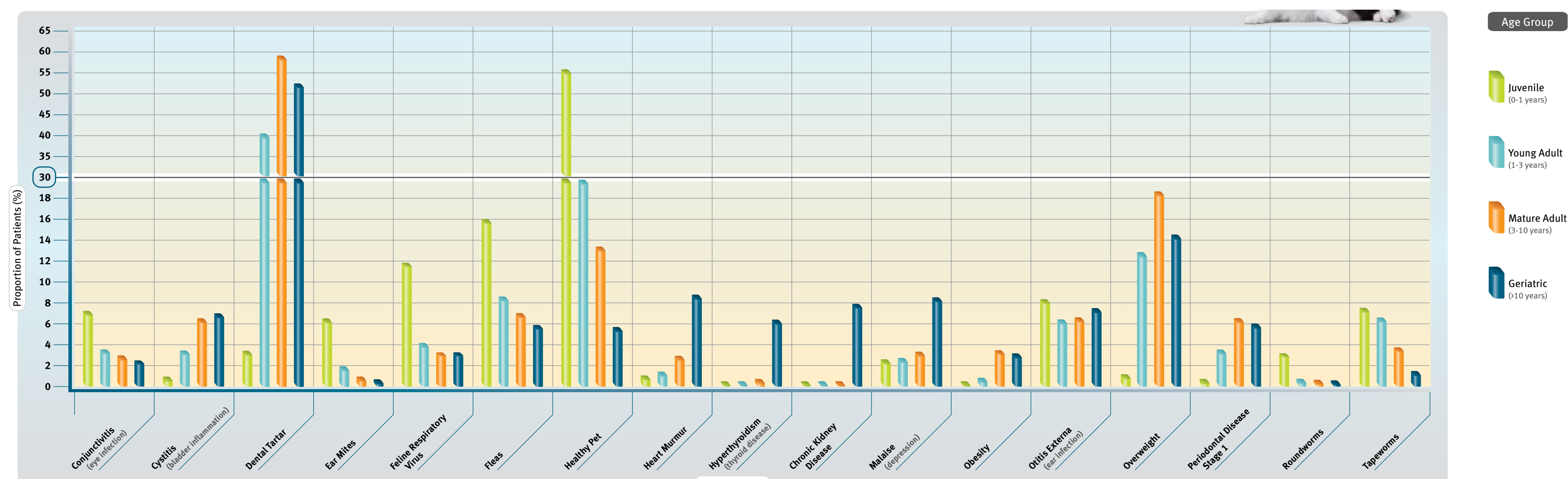
## about banfield

As a practice, 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 comprehensive examinations and a partnership between pet owners and their veterinarian to identify changes in 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 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).

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 at Banfield hospitals each year to develop insights into diseases affecting pets. Findings of the studies they conduct are shared with veterinarians and the public through various avenues including continuing education materials, scientific journals, the *Banfield Journal* (a medical publication), and the annual *State of Pet Health Report*.

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.



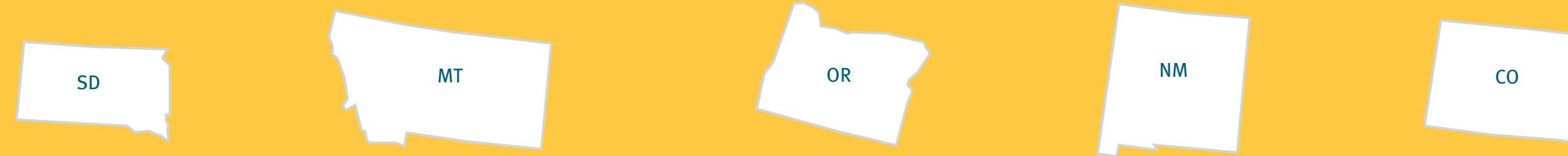
## 2012 at a glance

- The average lifespan of a cat in 2012 was 12 years—up 1 year since 2002. **↑ 10% increase**
- 20% (or 1 in 5) of the cats in Louisiana and Mississippi are spayed or neutered, and these are among the states with the shortest lifespans for cats. But in Montana and Colorado, the states with the longest lifespans, that number is closer to 8%.
- Montana and Oregon are tied for the highest percentage of geriatric cats at **24%**.
- Neutered male cats live longer than unneutered males. **62% longer**.
- Spayed female cats live longer than unspayed females. **39% longer**.
- 2 of the 5 states with the shortest lifespan for dogs have the highest number of unneutered and unspayed dogs: **Mississippi 44%** and **Louisiana 38%**. These two states were also given the top 5 rates for highest prevalence of heartworm infection in 2012.
- The average lifespan of a dog in 2012 was 11 years—up nearly half a year since 2002. **↑ 4% increase**
- Size does matter! Toy/small breed dogs live longer than giant breeds. **41% longer**.
- Neutered male dogs live longer than unneutered males. **18% longer**.
- Spayed female dogs live longer than unspayed females. **23% longer**.
- Oregon has the highest percentage of geriatric dogs at **13%**.

### STATES WITH THE LONGEST LIFESPAN FOR CATS



### STATES WITH THE LONGEST LIFESPAN FOR DOGS



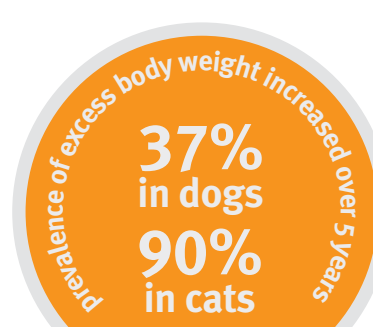
### STATES WITH THE SHORTEST LIFESPAN FOR CATS



### STATES WITH THE SHORTEST LIFESPAN FOR DOGS



## common diseases



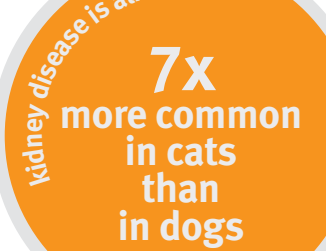
### overweight & obesity

Overweight and obesity have reached epidemic levels in 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 arthritis can be hard to distinguish from those of other diseases, arthritis is likely more common than currently reported.



### arthritis

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.



### kidney disease

Diabetes mellitus is a serious medical condition in which a pet cannot control blood sugar levels due to problems with insulin production or function. Pet owners' most common concerns are when pets display polyuria (excessive urination), polydipsia (excessive thirst) and weight loss, despite a good appetite. Diabetes mellitus is a chronic disease, requiring lifelong treatment and monitoring.



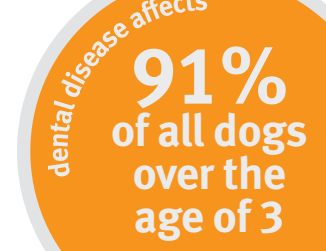
### diabetes mellitus

Heartworm disease is a serious but preventable condition caused by *Dirofilaria immitis*—long, slender parasitic worms that can reach up to 12 inches in length. Heartworm disease affects dogs, cats and ferrets and is potentially fatal. *Dirofilaria immitis* is transmitted from one pet to another by mosquitoes. Both indoor and outdoor pets are at risk for heartworm disease.



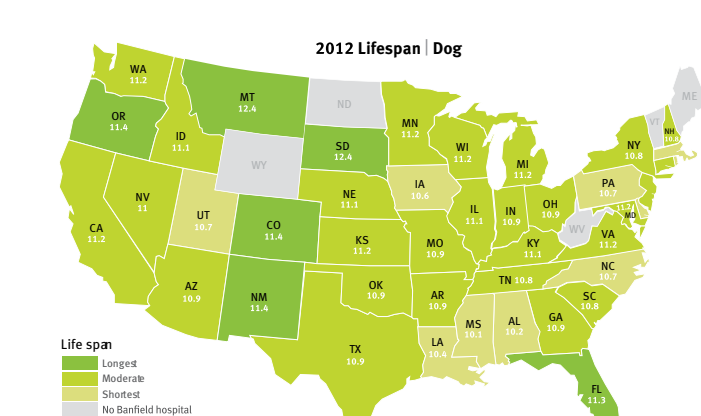
### heartworm disease

Dental disease is the most common disease in dogs and cats, affecting 91 percent of dogs and 85 percent of cats over the age of 3. Dental disease includes any health issue affecting the mouth, including inflammation, tartar, gingivitis and periodontal disease, among other issues.



### dental disease

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](http://StateofPetHealth.com)



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