

INTERNET HEALTH DATA (ACCUMULATED 1998-2002)

Below find a summary of health data collected by BFCA Inc. from email inquiries sent to bichon.org web site for the first five years on line. This is an accumulation based on questions/reports from primarily pet owners and is not represented as a scientifically correct report. It is based on approximately **1500** dogs and more than **2500** email contacts to the health committee. It includes reports on approximately 154 Bichons who were described as "healthy". (Note that most owners who contacted us were asking about health issues; age or sex not always provided). The following is extracted from those reports.

Healthy	Total - 154
Autoimmune diseases	Total - 524
Allergies/atopy (varying from mild problems (licking, tearing, scratching) to dogs so severely ill from allergic problems that the owners consider euthanasia. 3 reports of self mutilation.	Subtotal - 414
Blood diseases (autoimmune disorders)	Subtotal -25
AIHA (autoimmune mediated hemolytic anemia) - 8 (ages 5-13.5 years) (one 5 days post distemper shot - also had Cushings)	
ideopathic pure non-regenerative red cell aplasia (form of AIHA)- 1 "possible side effect of allergy shots"	
leukemia - 2	
"anemia" - 2	
lupus - 2 (F age 2.5, M age 8 "after patellar surgery")	
ITP (immune mediated thrombocytopenia - 2 (M 7 yr, F 7 yrs dec'd in 4 days)	
low platelets, high wbc (with allergies) - 2	
type B hemophilia - 1 litter (3 males)	
von Willebrand's - 1	
non-regenerating anemia - 1	
"blood disorder" - 1	
Autoimmune disease (other than atopy)	Subtotal - 23
irritable bowel disease - 15 (ages 2-14 years)	
eosinophilic gastritis - 1 Hemorrhagic gastritis - 1 (both associated with allergy)	
polyarthritic immune mediated joint disease - 1 M - 6 mo.	
autoimmune panniculitis - 1 F (6 yr.)	
vittiligo - 1	
"autoimmune disease" - 1 F (dec'd at 15 mo.)	
lymphoplasmocytic gastritis - 1	
myofibrosiis - 1 F (7 yrs)	
Skin problems (some may be autoimmune in nature)	Subtotal - 25
"bald patches" (not from scratching - 16 (youngest was 12 weeks)	
demodectic mange - 5	
sarcoptic mange - 2	
epidural inclusive cysts - 1	
dermatomyositis - 1 F (10 mo.)	
(end autoimmune)	
Skin (other than atopy and probably not autoimmune):	
Skin problems abound in Bichons (itching, licking, licking feet, scratching, etc. Also many variously described as "warts" or "growths" and may sometimes be sebaceous cysts.	

warts, cysts and/or papillomas - approximately 37

Pigmentation questions (summer freckles, winter pink noses) that frighten owners but are seasonal - 52

Respiratory (some may be autoimmune)

Total - 39

- chronic cough -17 (some also "tire easily") ages 2 mo. To 2 yrs.
- collapsing trachea - 12 plus one with "dry heaves" and collapses - 2yr. old
- Kartagener's syndrome (ciliary dyskensia) - 5
- "sniffles" - 1 (5 mo.)
- narrow trachea - 1
- fluid in lungs - 1
- cricopharyngeal achalasia - 1

Urinary tract/kidney:

Total - 174

- stones/UTI - total 142
 - stones, non specific - 106 (youngest 10 mo with "hundreds of stones"
 - calcium oxalate - 15
 - struvite and calcium oxalate - 4
- UTI (chronic unrinart tract infections) - 17 (youngest 9 wk)
- kidney disease/kidney failure - 27 (youngest dec'd at 2.5 yr.)
- nephritis - 2
- polycystic kidney - 1
- "small kidneys" - 1F (dec'd at 3 yr)
- glomerulosclerosis - 1

Orthopedic:

Total - 175

- patellar luxation/cruciate ligament rupture - 93
 - no age given - 22
 - prior to age 2 - 16
 - 2 years to 10 years - 38
 - over age 10 - 13
- spinal disc problems - 44 (several deceased or euthanized)
 - paralyzed - 7 (youngest reported was 23 months old)
- hips - 18
 - hip dysplasia - 15
 - Legg-Calve-Perthes - 3
- arthritis - 11
- shoulder problems - 5
- Miscellaneaous - 4
 - missing vertebra - 1
 - extra vertebra - 1
 - "fused back legs" - 1
 - "loses control of legs" - 1

Eye diseases:

Total - 144

- cataracts - 102
 - no age given - 22
 - through age 7 years - 38
 - after age 7 years - 20
 - blind all ages - 16
 - and glaucoma - 4
 - and retinal detachment - 2

keratitis sicca (dry eye) - 12
cherry eye - 5 plus one entire litter
corneal dystrophy - 4
SARDS (sudden acquired retinal detachment) - 4 (females ages 8 and 10 years)
Bichon inherited retinal detachemtn - 1 F (age 10.5 years)
tumors -3(M 9yr behind eye;F 9 yr benign granulomatous tumor in eye;F 9 yr retrobulbur tumor in eye)
corneal lipdosis - 3
PRA - 3
"blue grey eye" - 2
"spot" or "growth" in eye - 2
ruptured right eye - 1 F (age 11 years)
vitreous degeneration - 1
nuclear schlerosis (blind) - 1 F (age 2)

Endocrine:

Total - 119

Cushings syndrome - 48 (many also had pancreatitis and other illnesses, youngest was 6 years old)
diabetes - 34 (youngest was 6 years)
pancreatitis - 27 (youngest was 8 months old)
Addison's disease - 5 (youngest was 6 months old)
hypothyroid - 5

Liver/Spleen:

Total - 59

(spitting up "yellow, foamy mucus" - 28)
portasystemic shunt (liver shunt) - 24
"liver disease" - 15 (ages 2-15 years)
elevated liver enzymes - 10 (some had suffered seizures)
liver failure - 5
hepatitis - 3
splenectomy - 2

Neurological problems: (note these may be related to endocrine, liver or other disease) **Total - 59**

seizures - 44
 no age given - 7
 up to age 4 - 9(these could be ideopathic epilepsy; 1 was post op spay surgery)
 age 4 and older - 28
epilepsy - 7
cognitive dysfunction (senility) - 8
stroke - 2

Ears:

Total - 60

ear problems (non-specific) - 49
deaf in old age - 7
sudden deafness - 2
congenital deafness - 1
ear mites/middle ear infection - 1 M (first reported as possible Bichon dyskinesia)

Cancers:

Total - 54

lymphosarcoma (lymphoma) - 9 (ages 2.5 to 10 years)
liver - 6
lung - 5
"cancer:" - 4

kidney - 3 (one dec'd age 1 yr.)
mammary - 3
spleen - 2
tumor on neck - 2
prostate - 2
brain tumor - 1
sinus cavity - 1; nasal cavity - 1
testicular - 1
leg - 1
skin - 1
throat - 1
tumor in mouth - 1
pancreas - 1
malignant tumor on head - 1 F (age 7 mo.)
jaw - 1
TCC (transitional cell carcinoma - 1
flat bone tumor (shoulder) - 1
thyroid adenoma - 1
ovarian granulosa cell tumor - 1 F (age 15 mo.)
malignant histiocytosis - 1
cutaneous histiocytosis - 1 F (7 yrs.)
basal cell carcinoma 1 F(13 years, treated with chemo)

Benign tumors (nonmalignant)

growth on leg - 2 (1 was euthanized due to size of growth)
lung - 1 F (age 14 non-malignant but euthanized due to rapid growth)
tumor on mammary gland and leg muscle - 1 F (age 10)
mammary tumor - 1 F (age 10)
tumor on sciatic nerve - 1 M (age 7)

Total - 6

Cardiac:

heart murmurs - 16
congestive heart failure - 9
"heart disease" - 9
sudden death/heart" - 6
PDA (patent ductus arteriosus) - 4 (plus one pup "heart disease")
enlarged heart - 3
pulmonary edema - 1
brachycardia - 1
leaking valve - 1
heart tumors - 1 M (dec'd at 9 yrs.)

Total - 52

Sudden death and no necropsy done (all were young dogs)

Dec'd during spay/neuter surgery - 9
Unexplained sudden death - 6 (ages 10 mo. to 2 yrs - owners attributed it to "heart")

Total - 15

Drug toxicity

(may be related to other disease such as autoimmune, endocrine or liver disease)
heartworm/flea controls - 13
Sentinel - 4 (F age 2; M age 2 "throwing up"; 2 M elevated liver enzymes)

Total - 30

Frontline - 3 (all dec'd - 1 M age 7 died when vet prescribed 2nd application in a week and 1 dec'd in 4 days due to liver and kidney failure)

"flea drops" - 1 M (16.5 mo.)

"flea Rx" - 1 M (age 8 dec'd acute pancreatitis)

Revolution - 1 M age 6 "malfunction of immune system")

Heartgard - 1 M ((age 18 mo. "autoimmune disease")

Advantage - 1 M (age 1 yr. "severe anemia")

Ivermectin - 1 M (age 6)

Rimadyl - 11 (ages 5 mo. To 14 yrs)

Reactions included elevated liver enzymes, low platelets, "blood problems", seizures and residual problems even when the dogs recovered. At least one died)

Baytril - 4 (including seizures, elevated liver enzymes and ulcers)

Tribissen - 1

allergy shots - 1 (ideopathic red cell aplasia)

Vaccine reactions (may be related to other undiagnosed conditions) **Total - 18**

combination shot - 14 (1 with spontaneous nose bleed while getting shots)

rabies - 4 (including seizures, pancreatitis, elevated liver enzymes and bloody diarrhea)

Birth defects: **Total - 13**

hernia - 6

hydrocephalus - 3

inverted vagina - 1

ectopic ureter - 1

"faulty kidney to bladder connection" - 1

hormonal reaction - 1 ("hair turned orange all over her body")

Gastrointestinal: **Total - 9**

"excessive vomiting" - 7 (1 puppy vomiting after any exercise)

megaesophagus - 1

"intestinal blockage" - 1 (3 yr old dec'd)

Bichon dyskinesia: **Total - 3**

While there have been 17 contacts to the web site about this disorder, the number stands at 3 positively diagnosed

Have you owned a Bichon Frise that lived to be 19 years old or older? **Total - 4**

There have been 4 confirmed reports of Bichons that lived past age 19 and a number have reported their Bichon lived past their 18th birthday. So far we do not have confirmation of any that lived to be 21. We would like to have pedigrees on any that live to be 19 - or even within a month of that age. There are studies done to determine any "old age genes". Need confirmation of DOB and DOD to include.

Final notes: These numbers are from on line contacts to the health committee via bichon.org site and are primarily pet population. While not scientifically reported, they serve to report health trends in Bichons in a group of dogs that we would not otherwise have access to. We have heard from Bichon owners in many countries around the world, making this report of worldwide interest.

Information compiled by Anne Jones, BFCA Health Committee