

COMPARISON CHARTS FOR BICHON HEALTH SURVEYS PAST AND PRESENT

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INCIDENCE OF TOP 20 HEALTH ISSUES IN BICHONS **Comparison Between 2 Primarily Breeder Health Surveys**

1992 Health Survey (2,262 dogs)		2007 Breeders Survey (1,000 dogs)	
1. skin problems/allergies*	877=39%	skin problems/allergies*	233=23%
2. dental disease	339=15%	dental disease	157=16%
3. tear staining	211= 9%	patellar luxation/ligaments	121=12%
4. temperament issues	147= 6%	cryptorchidism	55=5.5%
5. cryptorchidism	122= 5%	bladder/kidney stones	54= 5%
6. umbilical hernia	90= 4%	umbilical hernia	54= 5%
7. bladder/kidney stones	67= 3%	temperament issues	51= 5%
8. chronic bladder infections*	61= 3%	cataracts	41= 4%
9. patellar luxation/ligaments	44= 2%	cancer	28= 3%
10. cataracts	40= 2%	heart diseases	28= 3%
11. heart diseases	33= 1%	deafness	24= 2%
12. stomach problems	33= 1%	chronic bladder infections*	23= 2%
13. ear infections	32= 1%	PCD*	18= 2%
14. hip dysplasia	24= 1%	liver diseases	17= 2%
15. arthritis	22= 1%	pancreatitis*	15=1.5%
16. cancer	21= 1%	tear staining	14= 1%
17. corneal dystrophy	19=.8%	ear infections	14= 1%
18. deafness	18=.8%	kidney diseases	14= 1%
19. PCD*	15=.6%	diabetes*	11= 1%
20. pancreatitis*	13=.6%	cushing's disease*	11= 1%

* Denotes diseases that have the potential to be autoimmune

The total numbers of Bichons Frises reported on in the 1992 health survey were 2,262 (owned by breeders, show owners, and pet owners) and 1,000 Bichons in the 2007 breeders survey (86% BFCA members). Above is a list and comparison of the top 20 diseases identified in the last 2 Bichon breeders health surveys. Following each condition is the # of Bichons reported with that condition, and the incidence expressed as a percent value. For more information and a complete listing and breakdown of all the diseases, go to www.bichonhealth.org.

The BFCA Health Committee would like to remind breeders that genetic diseases can surface many generations later, and the diseases go back to Bichons from the past including US and foreign Bichons, and yes, even puppy mill Bichons. All of the health issues listed below most likely have a genetic cause. Even the diseases that may be autoimmune have a genetic predisposition that causes the autoimmune response to a trigger event that insults the immune system.

Trends derived from the numbers above:

- 1) Skin problems/allergies continues to be the most common disease in Bichons, yet the incidence has decreased.
- 2) Dental disease continues to be the second most common disease in Bichons.
- 3) Incidences of these diseases have **increased**: patellar luxation, bladder stones, cancer, heart diseases, deafness, PCD, pancreatitis, liver diseases, kidney diseases, diabetes, cushing's disease, and cataracts. Some increases may

reflect more awareness of these issues and improved screening/examinations that revealed the presence of these conditions.

- 4) Incidences of these diseases have **decreased**: tear staining and arthritis
- 5) Hemangiosarcoma is the 4th most frequently reported cancer (following mammary, lung, and leukemia) in the 2007 survey. None reported previously.
- 6) Incidences of PCD may be considerably higher due to so many reports of respiratory symptoms instead of actual diagnoses. Breeders need to be aware of the signs of PCD, and if present seek veterinary evaluation.

TOP 25 HEALTH ISSUES IN BICHONS FRISES
Data from a Combination of Pet Owners and Breeders
Comparison of Previous Data to Current Data

	1982-1992 (2,262 dogs)	1992-2006 (3,927 dogs)
1	skin problems/allergies*	skin problems/allergies*
2	dental diseases	bladder/kidney stones
3	tear staining	patellar luxation/ligament tears
4	temperament issues	dental diseases
5	cryptorchidism	cataracts
6	umbilical hernias	cancers
7	bladder/kidney stones	heart diseases
8	chronic bladder infections*	liver diseases
9	patellar luxation/ligament tears	stomach problems
10	cataracts	diabetes*
11	heart diseases	ear infections
12	stomach problems	seizures
13	ear infections	cushing's disease*
14	hip dysplasia	degenerative disc disease
15	arthritis*	chronic bladder infections*
16	cancers	temperament issues
17	corneal dystrophy	pancreatitis*
18	deafness	deafness
19	PCD*	cryptorchidism
20	pancreatitis*	umbilical hernias
21	seizures	kidney diseases
22	diabetes*	tear staining
23	cushing's disease*	PCD*
24	liver diseases	hip dysplasia
25	kidney diseases	tracheal collapse

* Denotes diseases that have the potential to be autoimmune

The only source of the data from 1982-1992 is a health survey that was conducted by the BFCA health committee, comprising reports on 2,262 Bichons. The respondents included breeders, show owners, and pet owners. The data from 1992-2006 includes three sources: (1) internet health data collected from health-related email questions received by the BFCA health committee from the BFCA web site from 1998-2007 on 2,767 Bichons, (2) the 2007 health survey for breeders, which asked for data on Bichons bred between 1992 and 2006, and is comprised of reports on 1,000 Bichons primarily bred by BFCA members, and (3) data from 160 Bichons rescued from 2005 and 2006.

Viewing more than the top 10 or top 20 health issues in Bichons allows us to better understand the dynamics of the trends. For example, liver diseases were in the #24 position, and are now in the #8 position.

Trends derived from the numbers above:

1. Skin problems/allergies persists in being the major health issue in Bichons.
2. Dental disease remains concerning, but has moved from #2 to #4.
3. Bladder stones and patellar luxation/ligament tears have become **pervasive**, moving from #7 and #9 to #2 and #3 positions.
4. The incidence of chronic bladder infections had dropped, but remains concerning due to this may be precipitating factor in struvite bladder stones.
5. Conditions that have **significantly decreased in incidence** include: tear staining, temperament issues, cryptorchidism (testicles not descended), umbilical hernias, hip dysplasia, arthritis, and corneal dystrophy (eye disease). It can be assumed that frequent OFA hip certifications on our breeding Bichons had an impact
6. Conditions that have **remained fairly stable in incidence** include: stomach problems, ear infections, deafness, pancreatitis, kidney diseases, and PCD. PCD data may be skewed considering numerous reports of chronic nasal discharge and other respiratory illnesses that may indicate PCD, but no diagnosis was established.
7. Conditions that have **significantly increased in incidence** include: cataracts, cancers, heart diseases, liver diseases, seizures, cushing's disease, diabetes, and degenerative disc disease, all of which are explained in articles on our health web site www.bichonhealth.org. In addition to the top 5 conditions in Bichons, increasing incidences of other conditions indicate prioritizing research dollars toward them. Currently, BFCA has donated, or is in the process of donating, toward research on cataracts, liver shunt, patellar luxation, bladder stones, and allergies.

TOP 6 TYPES OF CANCER AFFLICTING BICHONS
Comparison of Previous Data to Current Data

1982-1992 (2,262 dogs)			1992-2006 (3,927 dogs)		
1	breast	7	lung		18
2	lymphoma*	6	hemangiosarcoma		17
3	testicular	4	liver		16
4	liver	2	lymphoma*		12
5	kidneys/bladder	1	kidneys/bladder		10
6	prostate	1	breast		9

* Denotes diseases that have the potential to be autoimmune

Trends derived from the numbers above:

1. We have been lulled into thinking that cancer is not a concern for Bichons, being the #1 cause of deaths in all breeds of dogs. However, cancer has moved from the #16 to the #6 health issue in Bichons, indicating we must be vigilant in preventing this deadly disease before it increases in incidence, and before a single type of cancer becomes predominant in Bichons.
2. Breast (mammary) cancer is the only type that has remained stable.
3. Hemangiosarcoma (blood vessels) is very concerning due to its sudden appearance in the #2 position, plus it carries an extremely high mortality rate.

4. Cancers of the lung, liver, kidneys/bladder, and lymphoma have significantly risen in incidence, so deserve close monitoring.

COMPARISON OF BICHON HEALTH ISSUES BETWEEN MOSTLY BFCA BREEDER BICHONS AND OTHER BICHONS

1992-2006 Breeders Survey (1,000 dogs) 1998-2007 Rescue, Internet (2,927 dogs)

1	skin problems/allergies*	skin problems/allergies*
2	dental diseases	bladder/kidney stones
3	patellar luxation/ligament tears	patellar luxation/ligament tears
4	cryptorchidism	cataracts
5	bladder/kidney stones	cancer
6	umbilical hernias	dental diseases
7	temperament issues	heart diseases
8	cataracts	liver diseases
9	cancer	stomach problems
10	heart diseases	seizures
11	deafness	diabetes*
12	chronic bladder infections*	degenerative disc disease
13	PCD*	ear infections
14	liver diseases	cushing's disease*
15	pancreatitis*	pancreatitis*
16	tear staining	chronic bladder infections*
17	ear infections	arthritis*
18	kidney diseases	temperament issues
19	diabetes*	deafness
20	cushing's disease*	kidney diseases

* Denotes diseases that have the potential to be autoimmune

Data from the 2007 health survey for breeders, which asked breeders to report on Bichons bred between 1992 and 2006, is comprised of reports on 1,000 Bichons and 86% of the respondents are BFCA members. Data from 1992-2006 "Rescue, Internet Data" includes two sources: (1) internet health data on 2,767 Bichons collected from health-related email questions received by the BFCA health committee from the BFCA web site from 1998-2007 Bichons, and (2) data from 160 Bichons rescued from 2005 and 2006.

Trends derived from the numbers above:

1. Skin problems/allergies persist in being the #1 health issue for all Bichons.
2. Dental disease, patellar luxation, and bladder stones continue to be concerning remaining in the top 6 diseases of all Bichons.
3. Cataract incidence is much lower in Bichons bred by mostly BFCA members, possibly due to frequent CERF exams by owners prior to breeding.
4. Serious diseases carry a lower incidence in Bichons bred by mostly BFCA members: cancer, heart diseases, liver diseases, diabetes, cushing's disease. One could conclude that BFCA breeders are producing healthier Bichons.
5. Umbilical hernias, deafness, temperament issues, PCD, chronic bladder infections, and cryptorchidism carry a higher incidence in Bichons bred mostly by BFCA members. One could conclude that BFCA breeders are more proficient in achieving actual veterinary diagnoses, and that some health issues are less important for pet owners to mention, i.e. cryptorchidism, umbilical hernias.