



The Country Griffon Bruxellois Club of NSW Inc Australia 2024- 2025 Health Survey

The survey was conducted over a 4-month period from 23rd October 2024 until 22nd February 2025.

The survey, sent out to our Club database, was distributed to other Clubs to send out to their database, linked on our Instagram and Facebook profiles and was promoted on as many legitimate Griffon Bruxellois-related groups as possible on Facebook.

Some Facebook groups elected not to publish the survey which was unfortunate because we wanted it to reach as many current and former owners are possible. However, despite that, the survey reached a large number of groups, including specific health groups on SM/CM and BOAS as well as breed and brachycephalic groups.

The survey was anonymous and was conducted by Survey Planet. The settings allowed the survey to be completed once only by respondents. Following the ban of breeding of brachycephalic breeds in The Netherlands and with numerous groups supporting such trends, the purpose of the survey was to collect data to gain an understanding of the overall health of the breed globally, compare the findings to past survey/s and as a Breed Club, assess whether any major issues need addressing.

Our priority as a Club is to campaign for the preservation of the Breed and therefore breed health knowledge is of great importance.

This survey was designed to offer a snapshot highlighting the health of the breed. The survey has collected results from a specific period of time and indicates health issues impacting Griffons during this time as outlined by Owners and Breeders.

Results will be made available to Breeders, Owners and Clubs. This survey is not intended to provide specific medical details, provide details of testing or treatment, identify countries, breeders, owners, researchers, veterinarians, or recommend future treatment, research or direction.



The survey consisted of 19 mandatory questions some of which required either entry of specific information or multiple choice options and 2 additional optional questions at the end of the survey that allowed free comments to be submitted.

We note that the survey did not distinguish between owners and breeders and it is possible that the results could be duplicated for an individual dog if both the new owner of the dog and the breeder reported on the same particular condition. Duplication such as this is unavoidable but needs to be taken into consideration when assessing the results.

The survey:

- was completed 238 times and covers a total of 4561 dogs - 1782 owned and 2779 bred.
- saw the lowest number recorded from a single respondent as 0
- saw the highest number from a single respondent as 300.

The most common issue identified was Umbilical Hernia with 8.59% of dogs impacted and the second most common issue was Patella Luxation with 8.53% of dogs impacted by this issue. The most common issue identified by respondents related to breeding was Cleft Palate with 8.31% of dogs were impacted by this issue.

This survey itself will deliberately draw no conclusions. The questions are objective with no given premise A full break down of all responses – untouched and unadulterated can be seen on the following pages



At the end of the survey is a summary of findings based on the data collated and a comparison to the previous 2016 survey.

Please note: the survey referred to Griffon Bruxellois, Griffon Belge, Petit Brabancon dogs as they are all the same breed with different coats and colours. For the purpose of simplicity, all dogs will be

referred to as Griffons in this survey



Precis

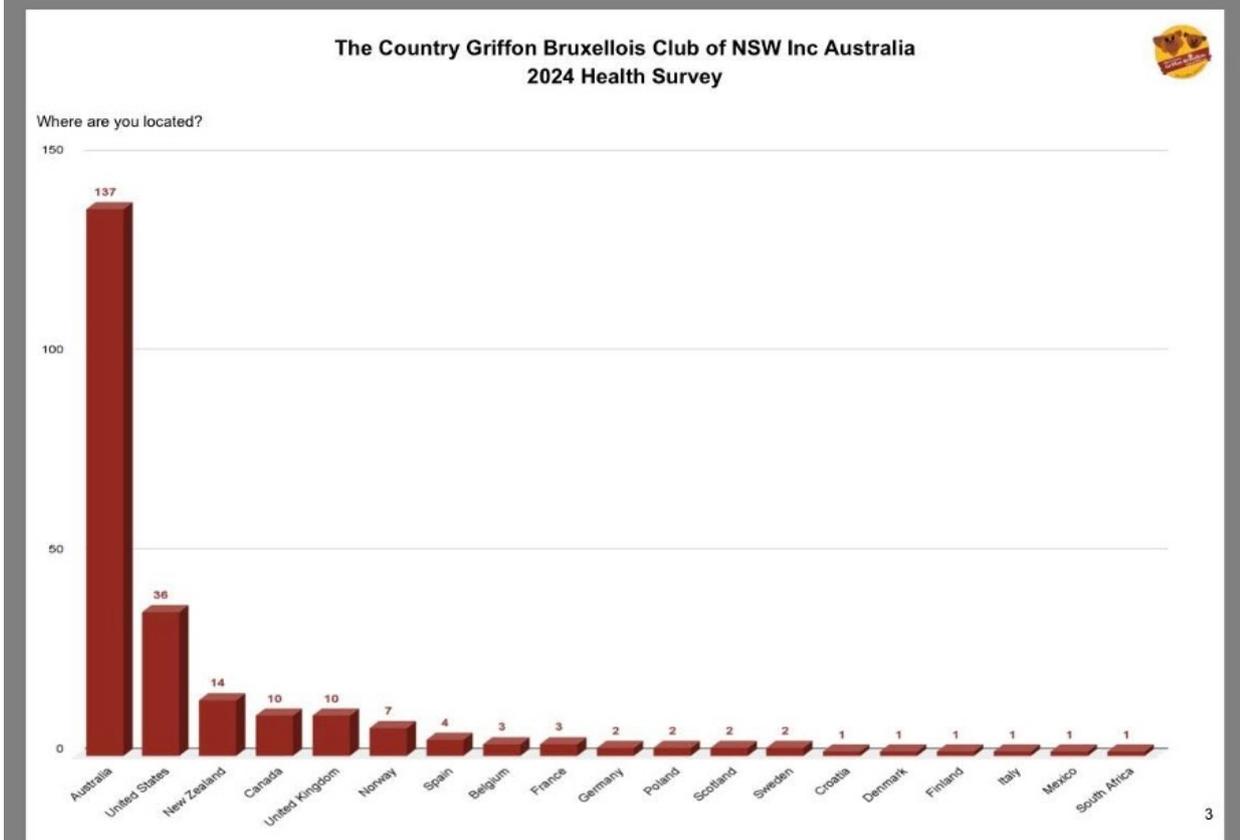
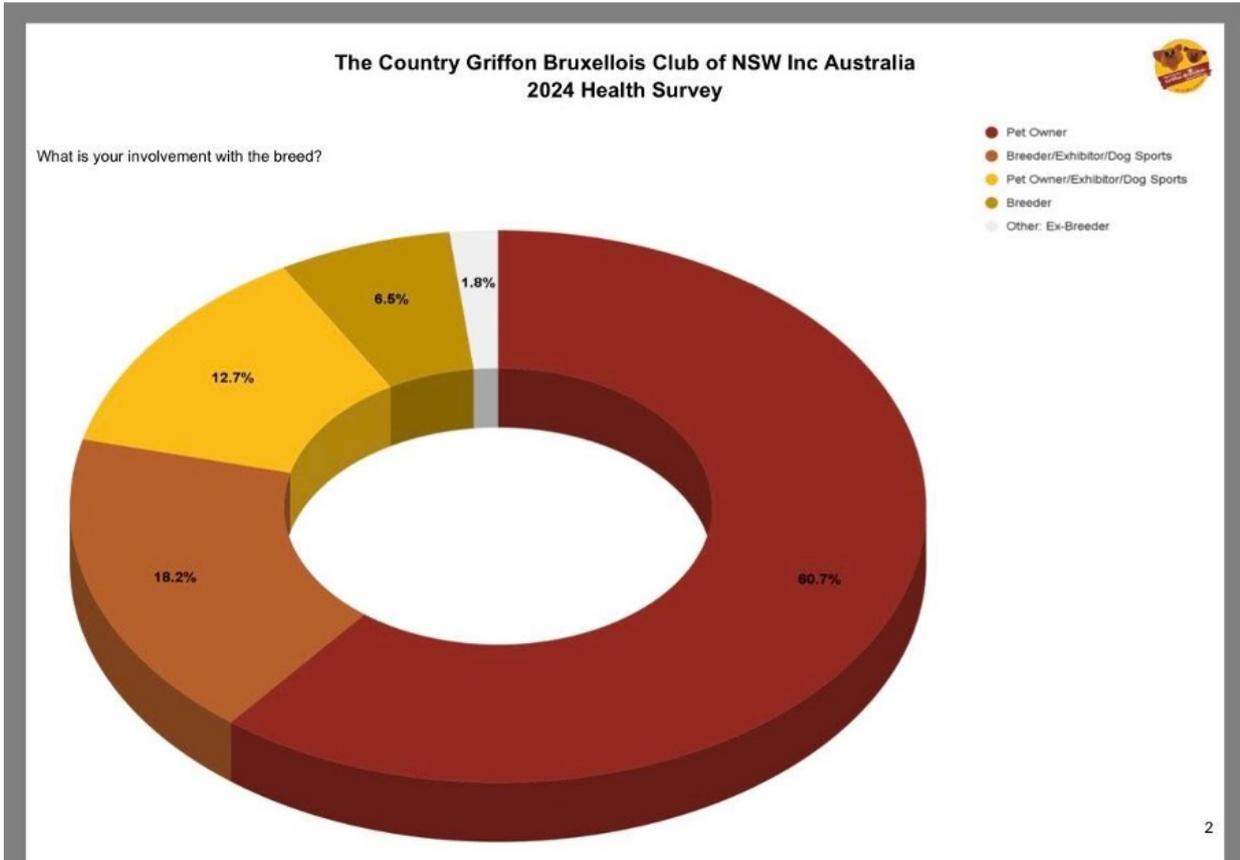
1. Total dogs surveyed-4,561
2. Countries involved- 19
3. Vast majority of respondents were pet owners with no vested interest
4. Majority of dogs surveyed were from registered approved Kennel Club breeders
5. Major health conditions surveyed occurred at less than 1%
6. Most common health conditions reported were : Patella Luxation- less than 10%
Cleft Palate/Hair lip-less than 10%
Umbilical heria-8.59%
7. Major health concerns were reported at low percentages: SM/CM- 1.68%
BOAS- 0.95%
Hip displasia-3.54%
8. Dogs with dilute colours were reported to have a higher percentage of health conditions, particularly skin conditions
9. Eyes conditions were all reported at less than 1%
10. Other conditions identified by Owners were allergies- 6.62% and exaggerated underbite -5.05%
11. Comparison with 2016 survey shows that overall breed health has remained stable





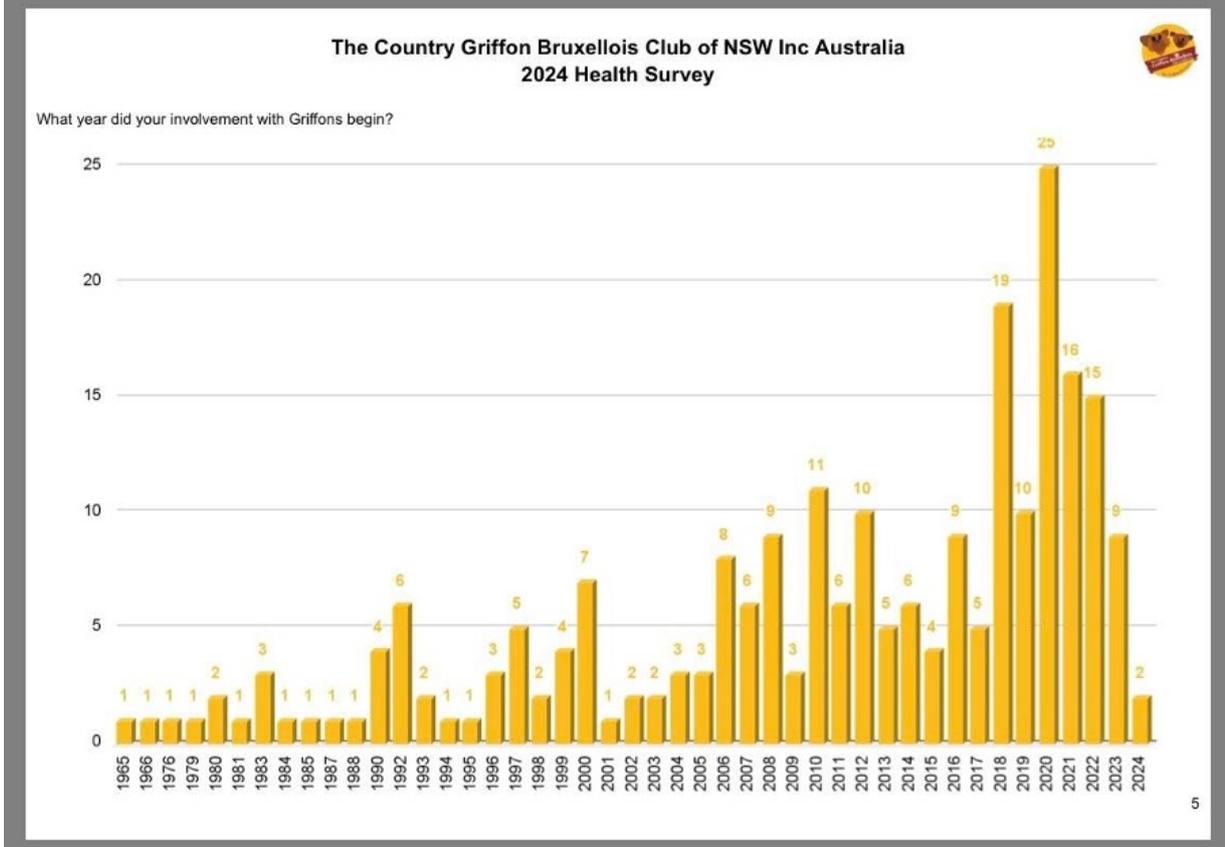
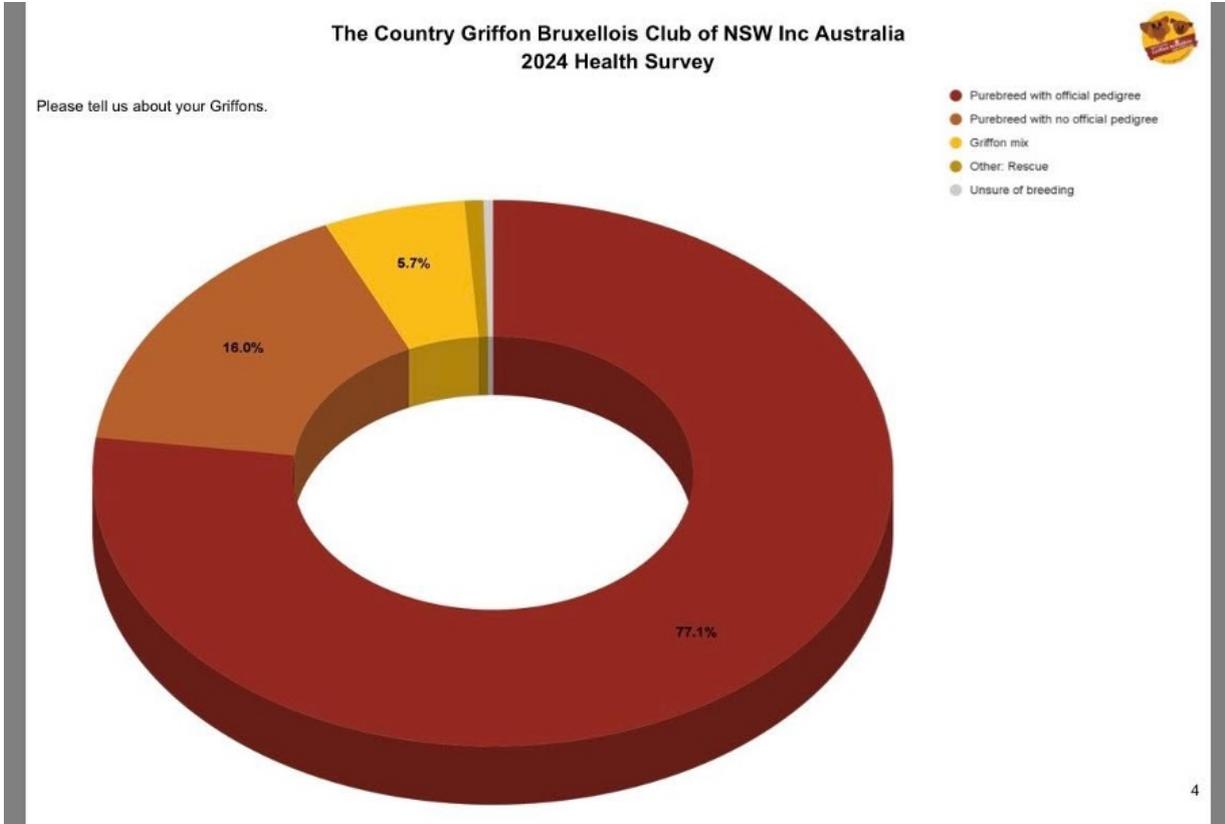
The Questions

Question 1-2



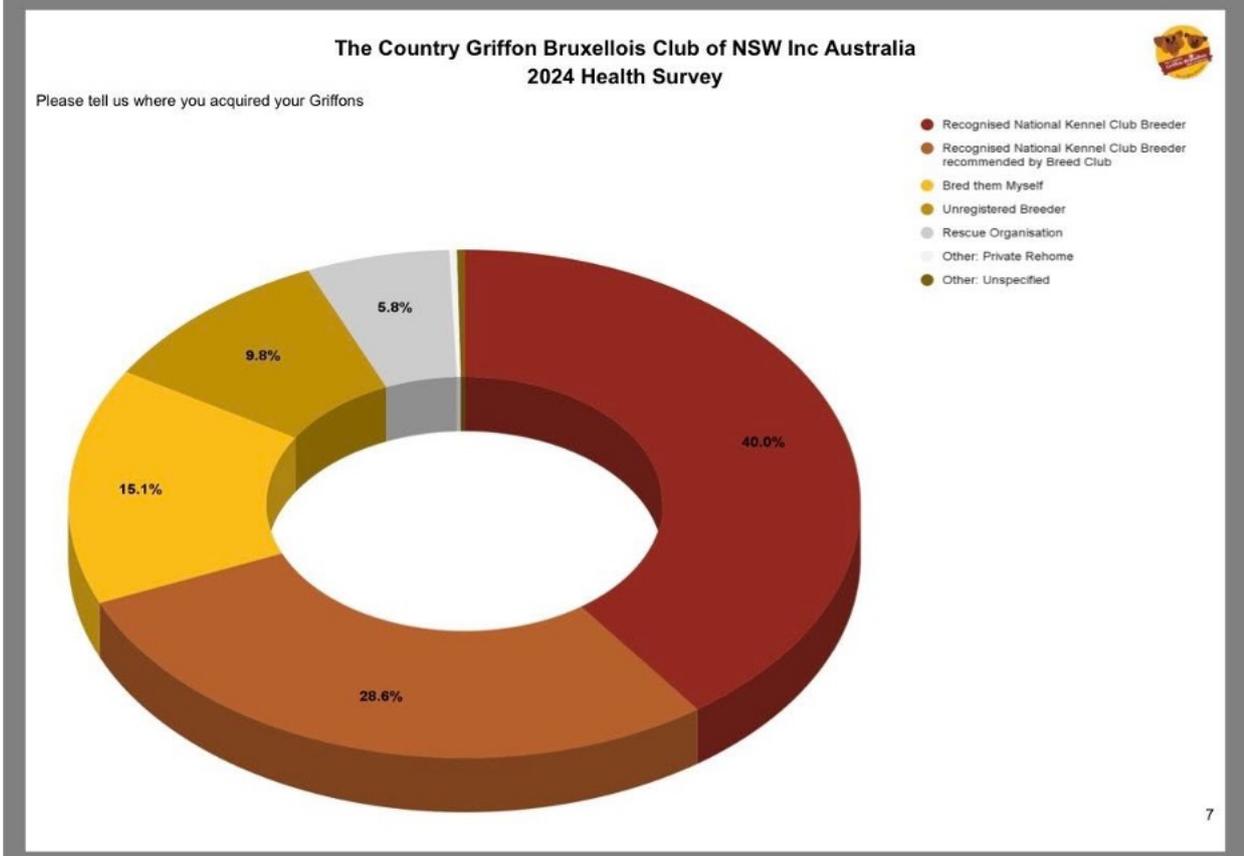
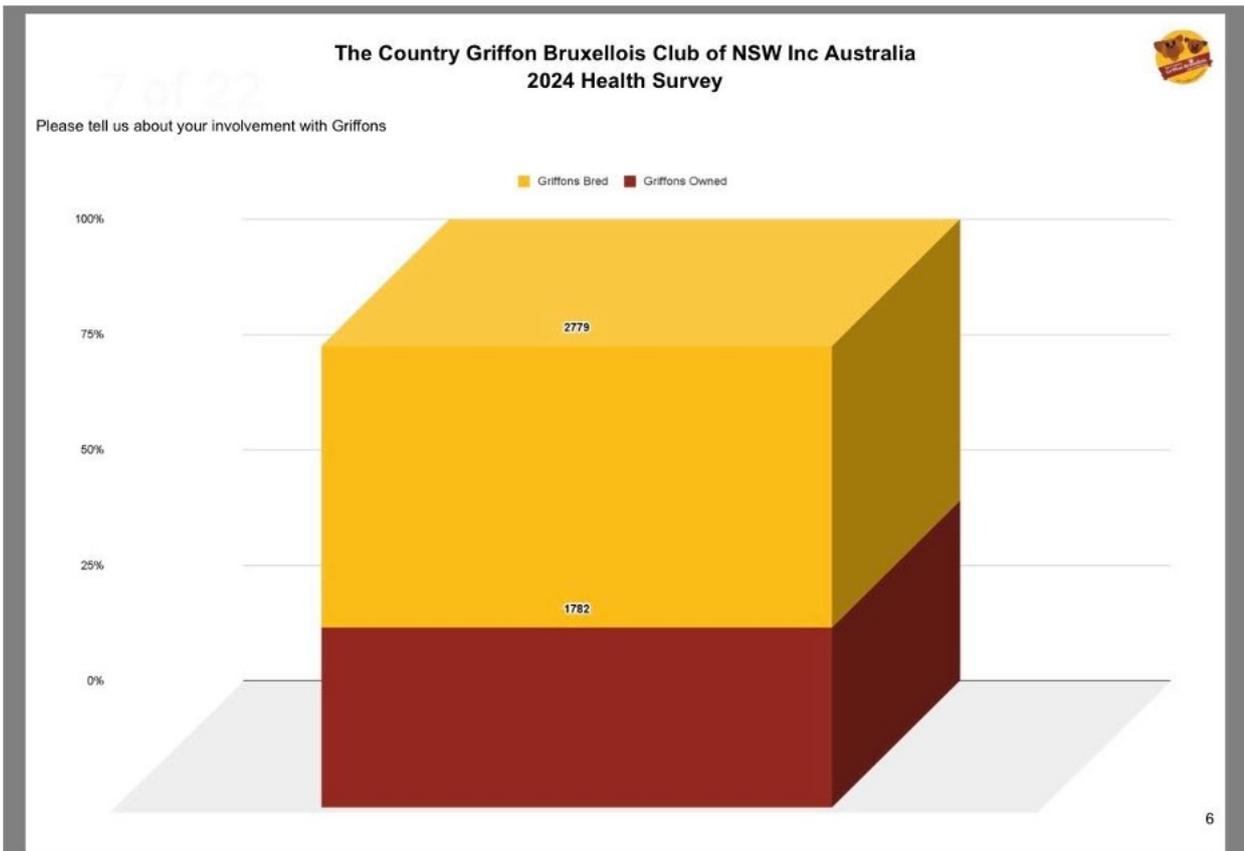


Question 3-4



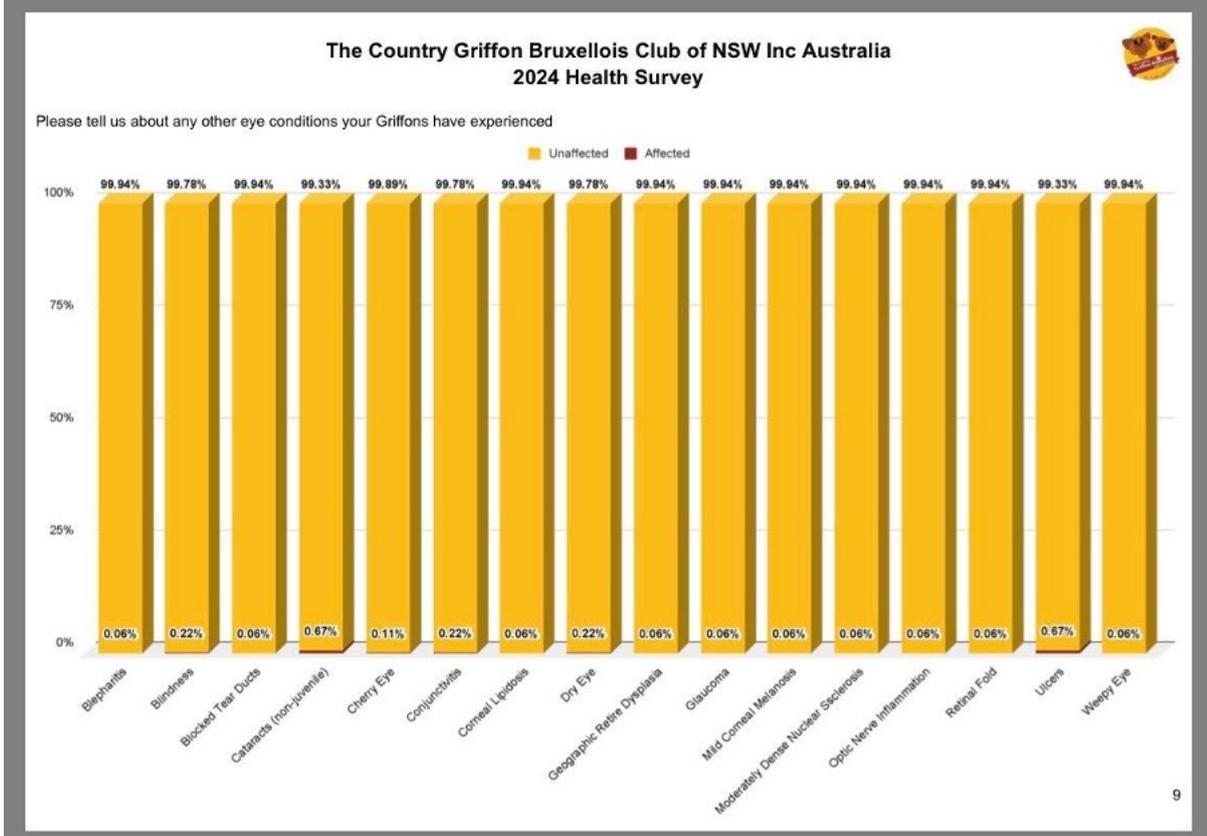
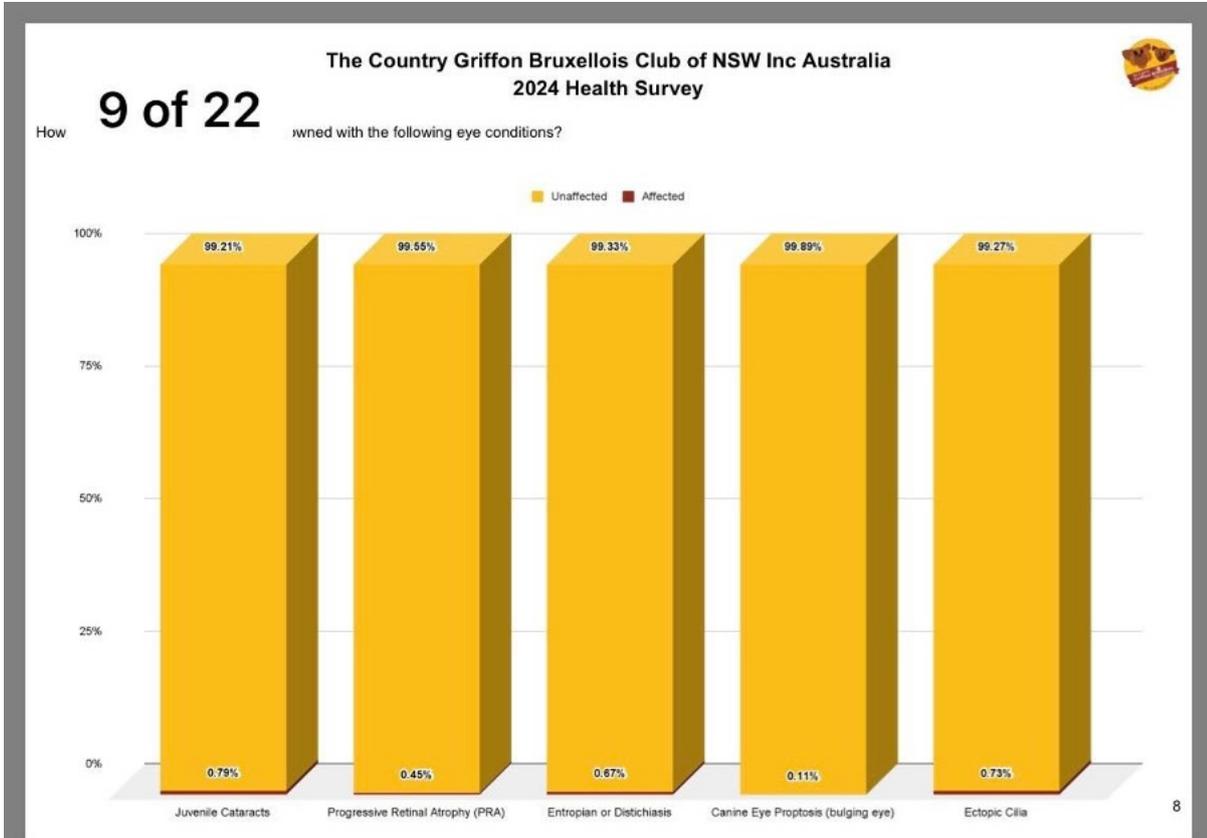


Question 5-6



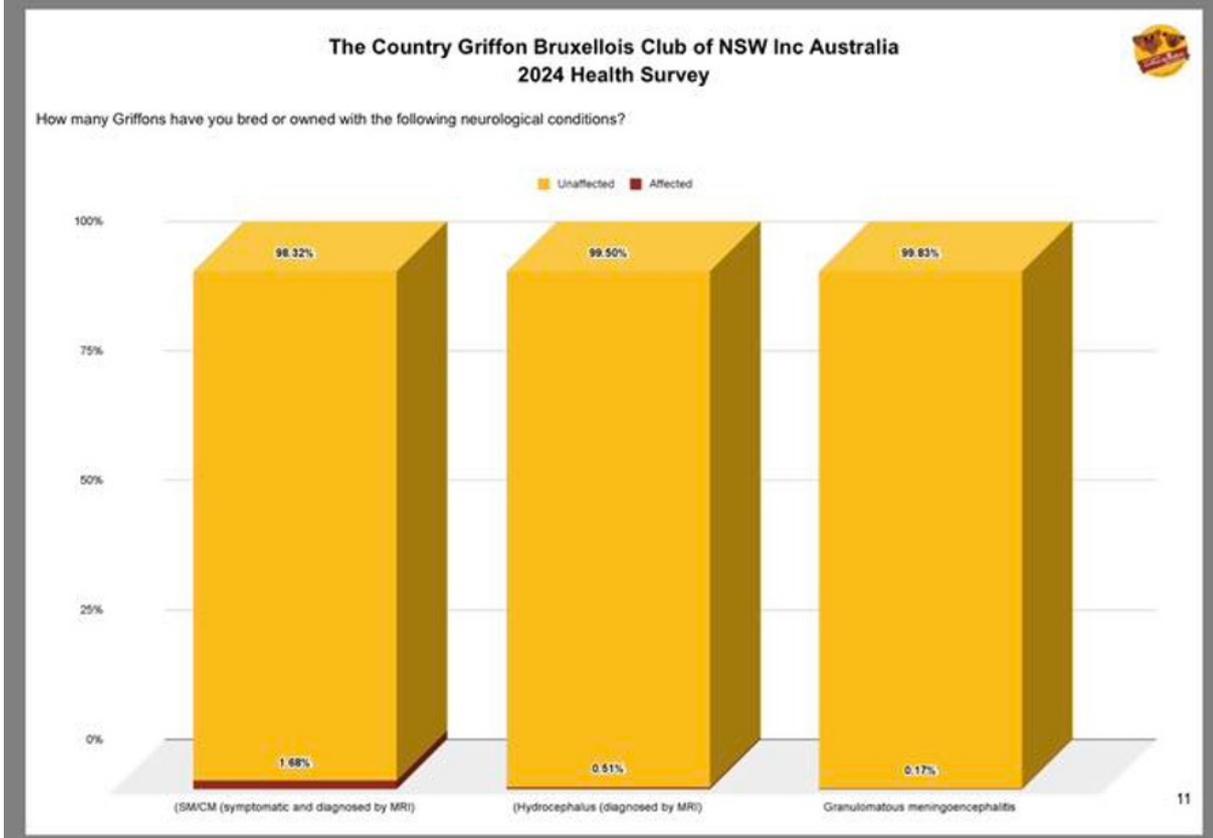
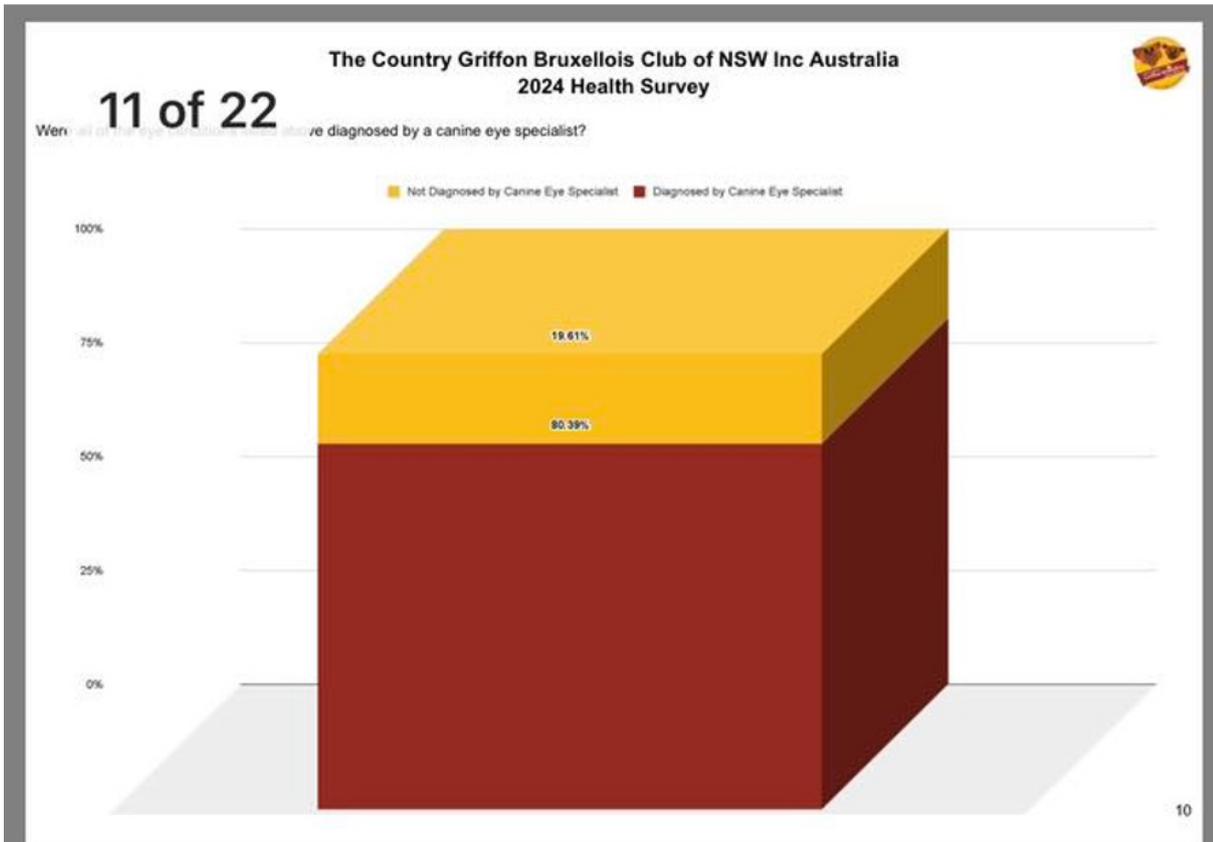


Question 7-8



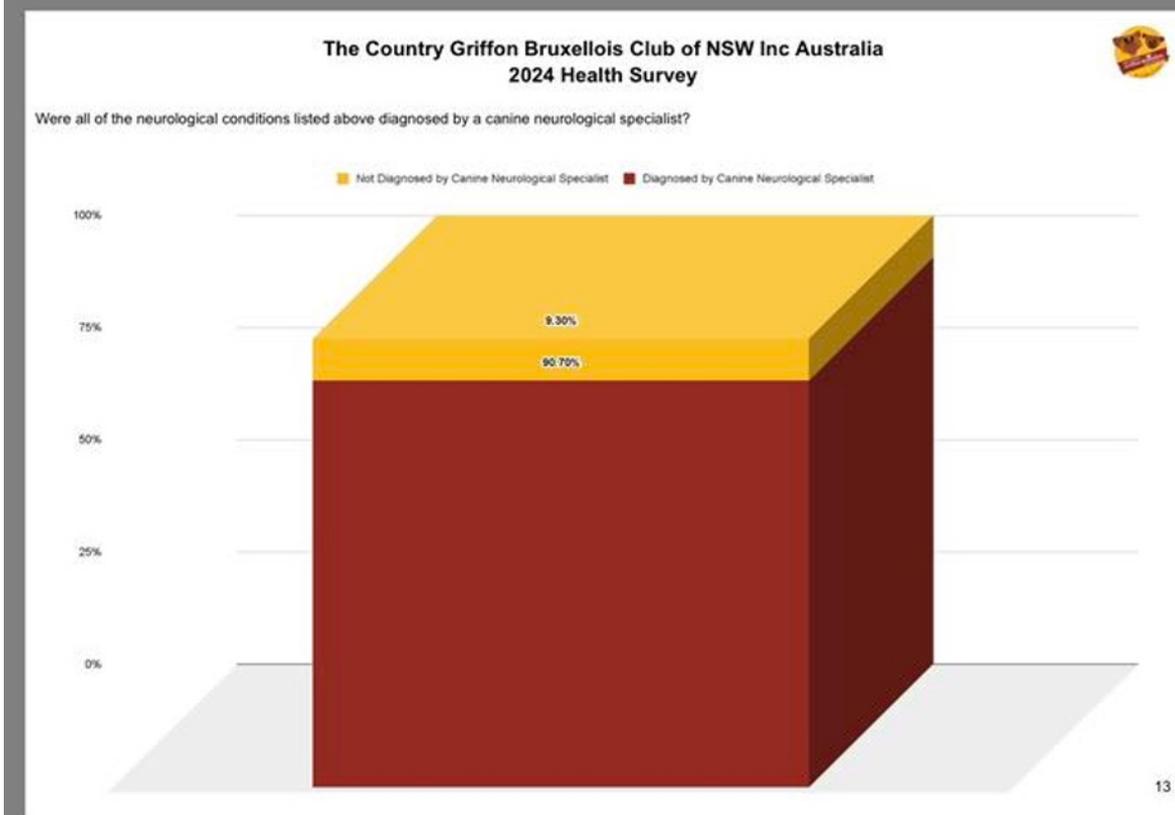
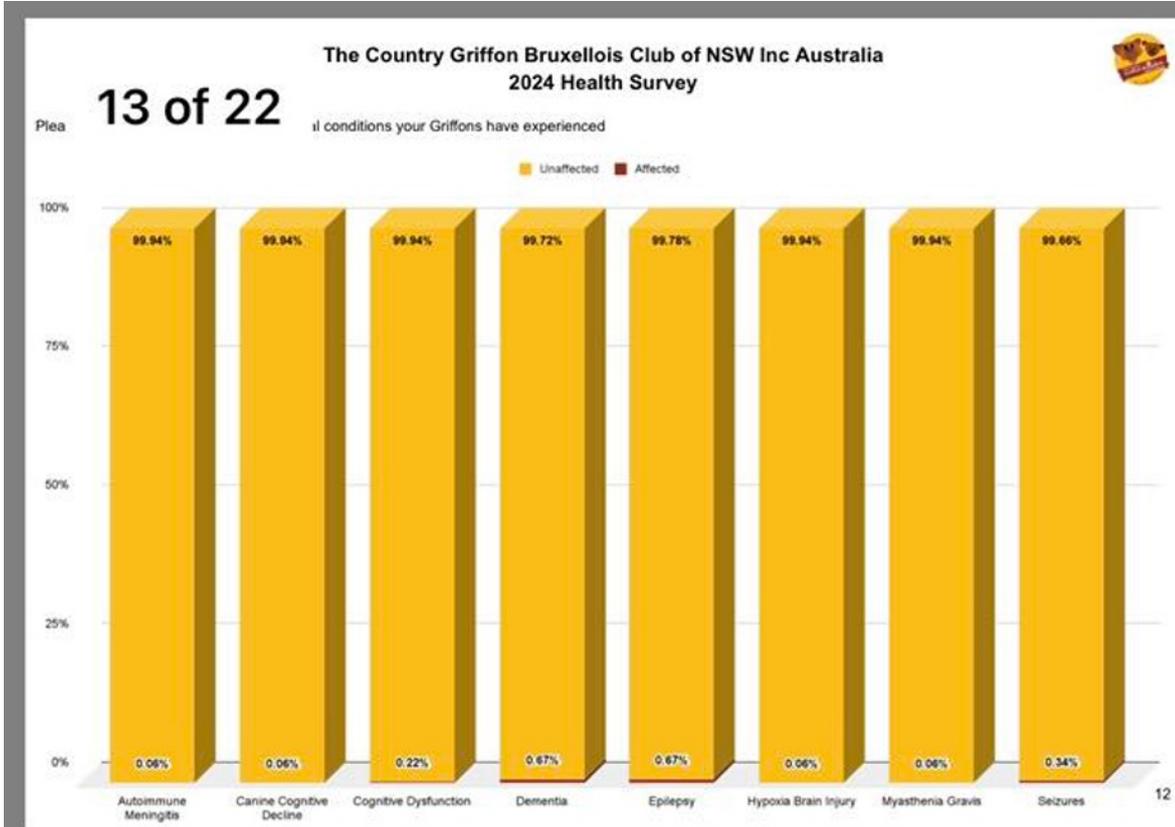


Question 9-10





Question 11-12



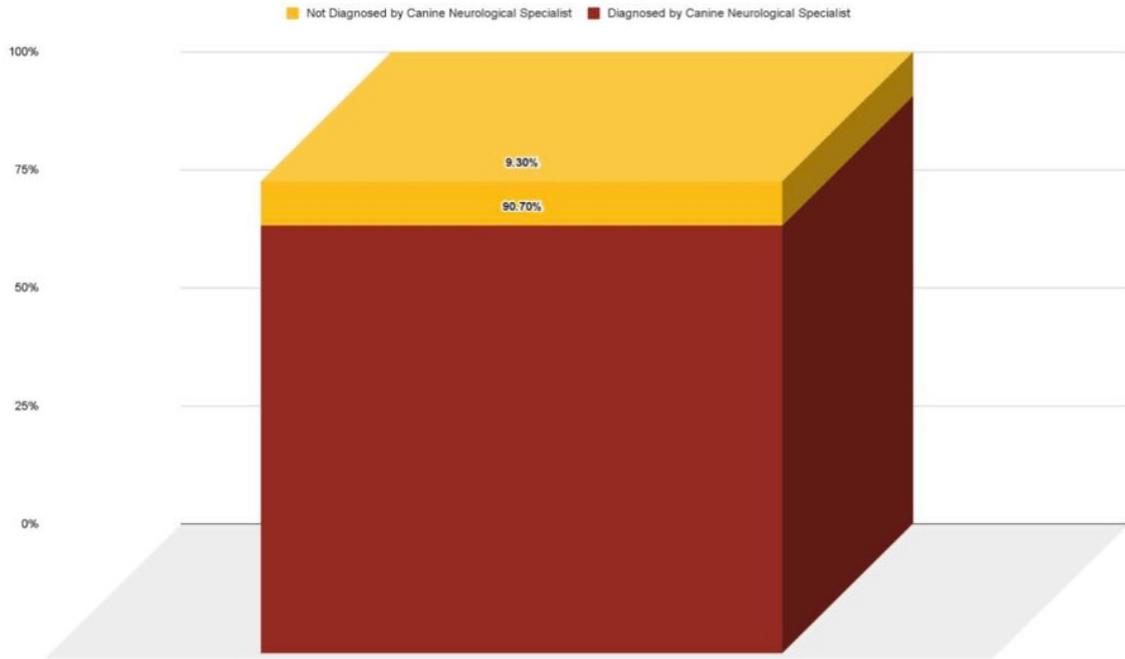


Question 13-14

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Were all of the neurological conditions listed above diagnosed by a canine neurological specialist?

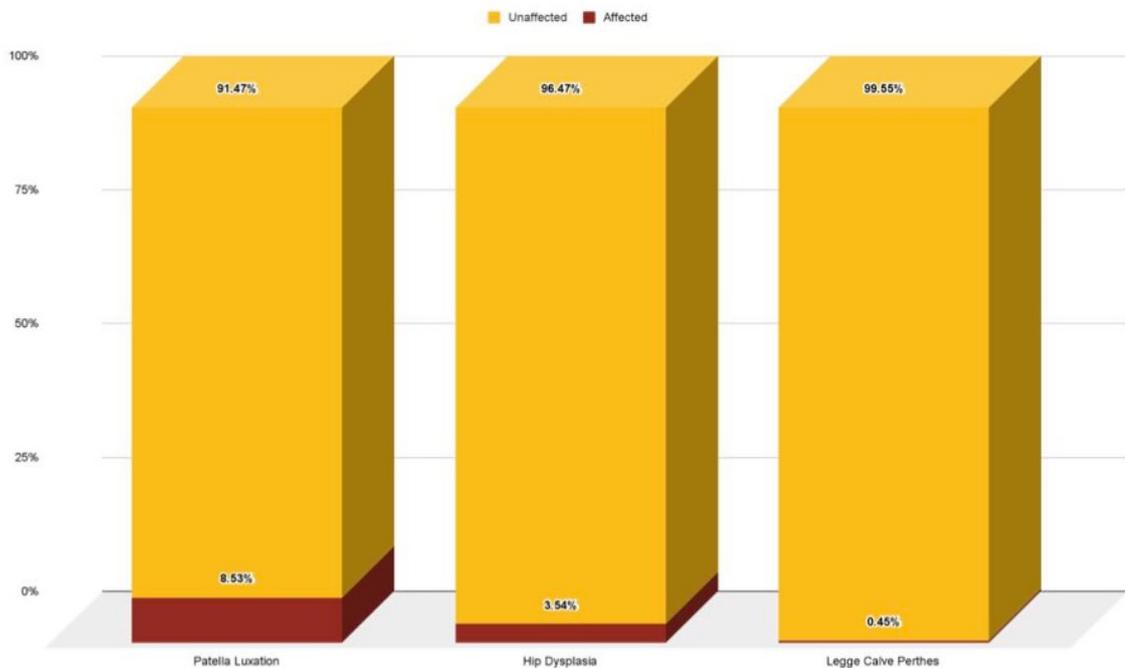


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The Country Griffon Bruxellois Club of NSW Inc Australia 2024 Health Survey



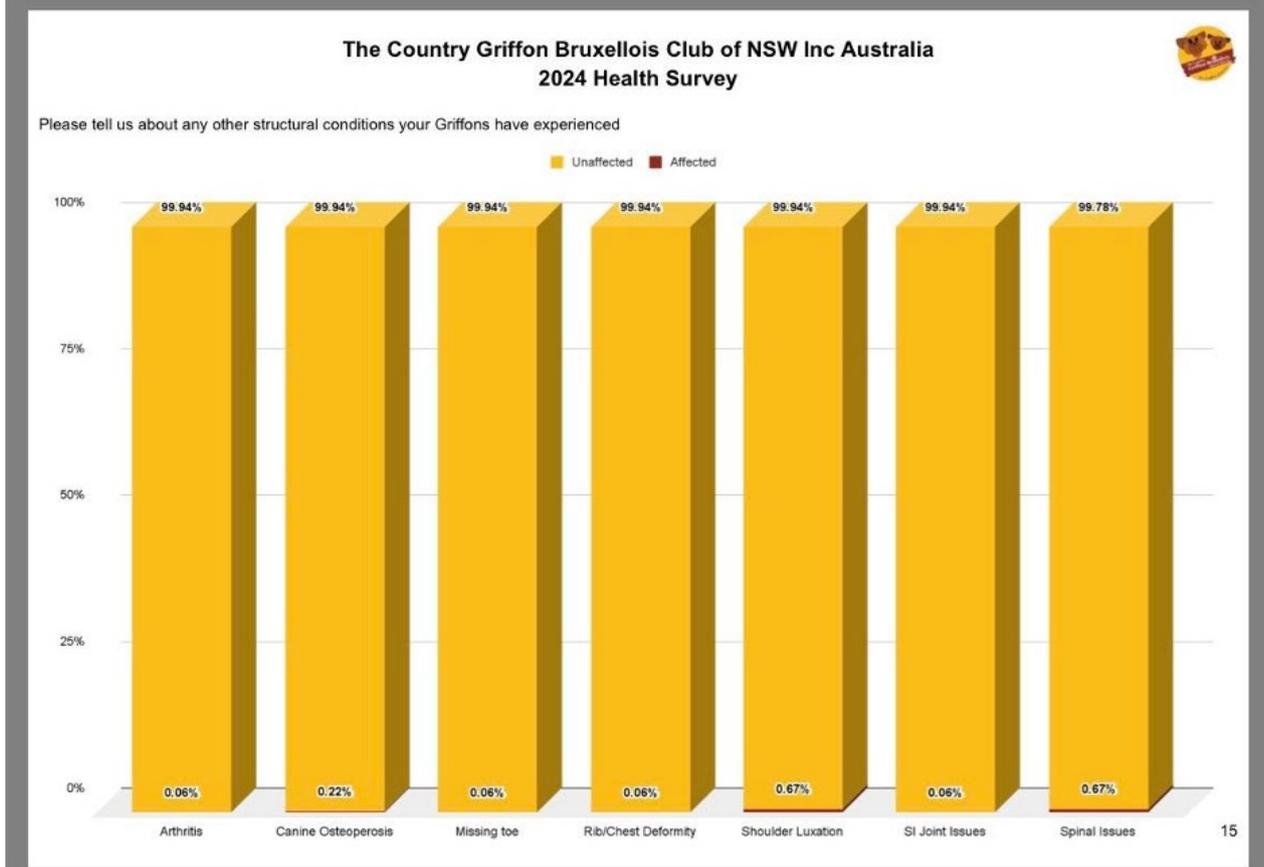
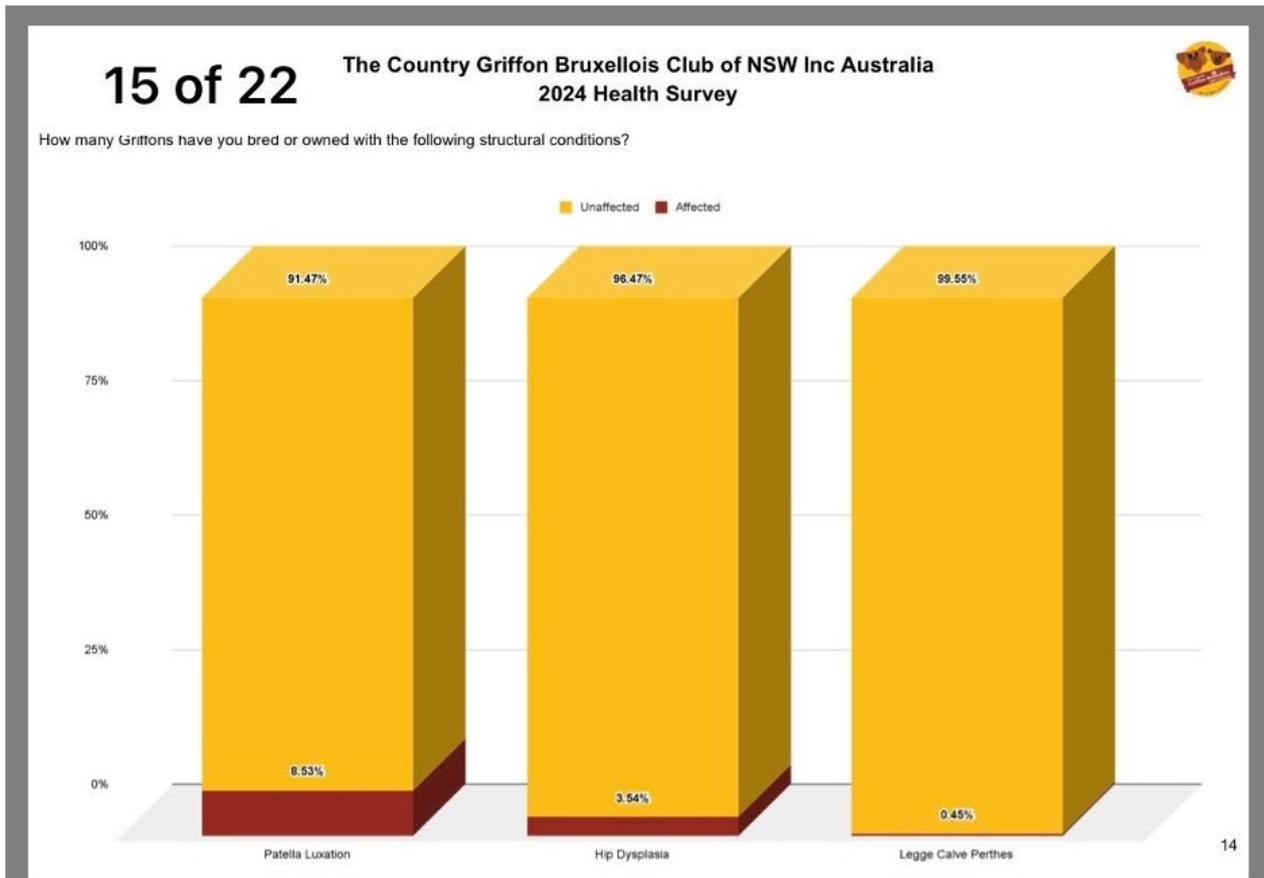
How many Griffons have you bred or owned with the following structural conditions?



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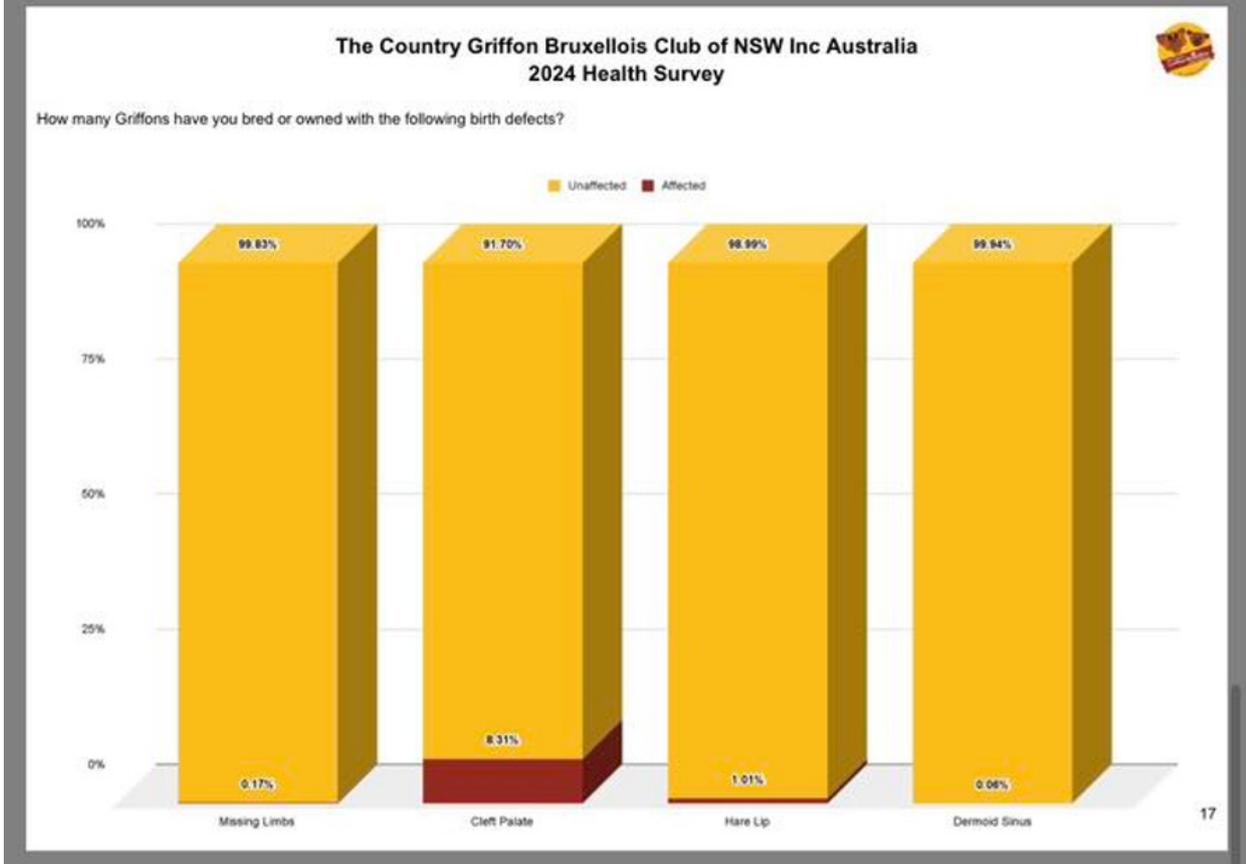
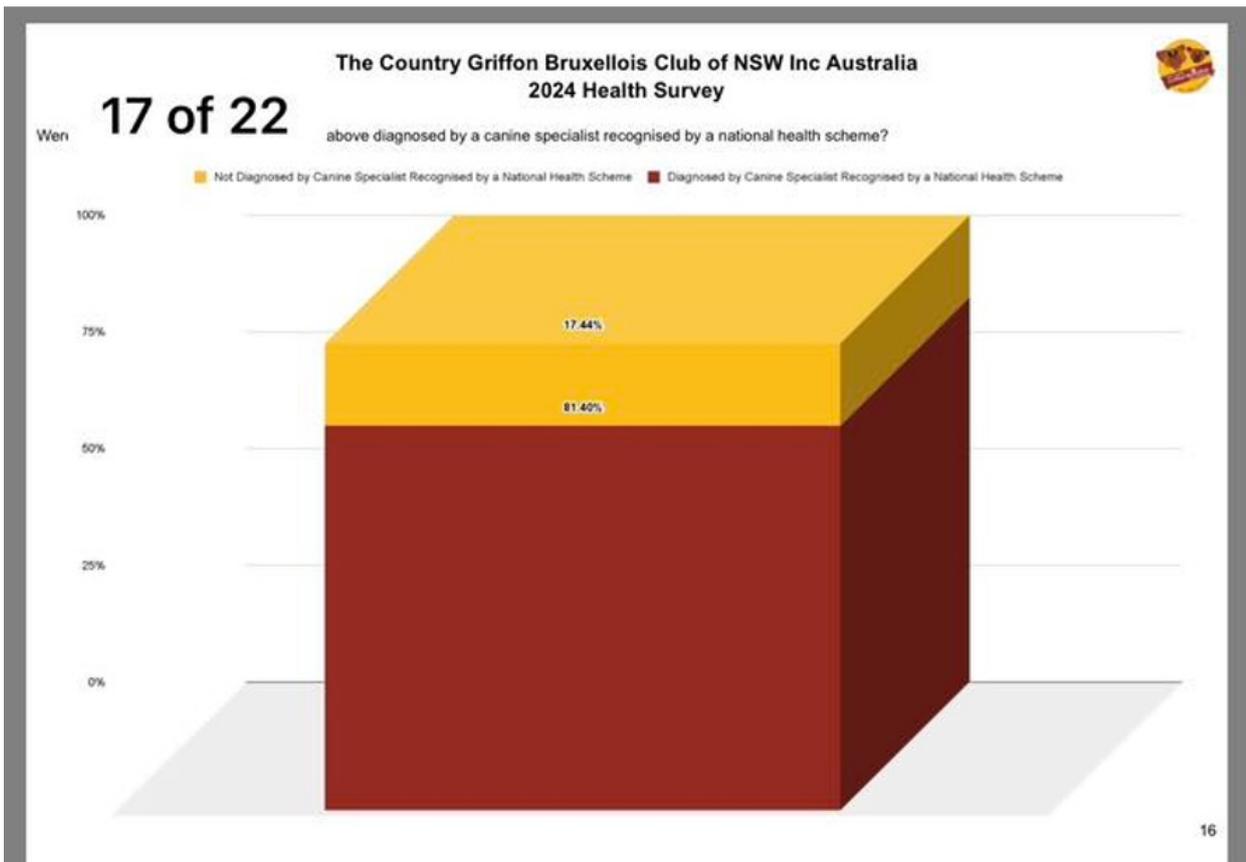


Question 15-16



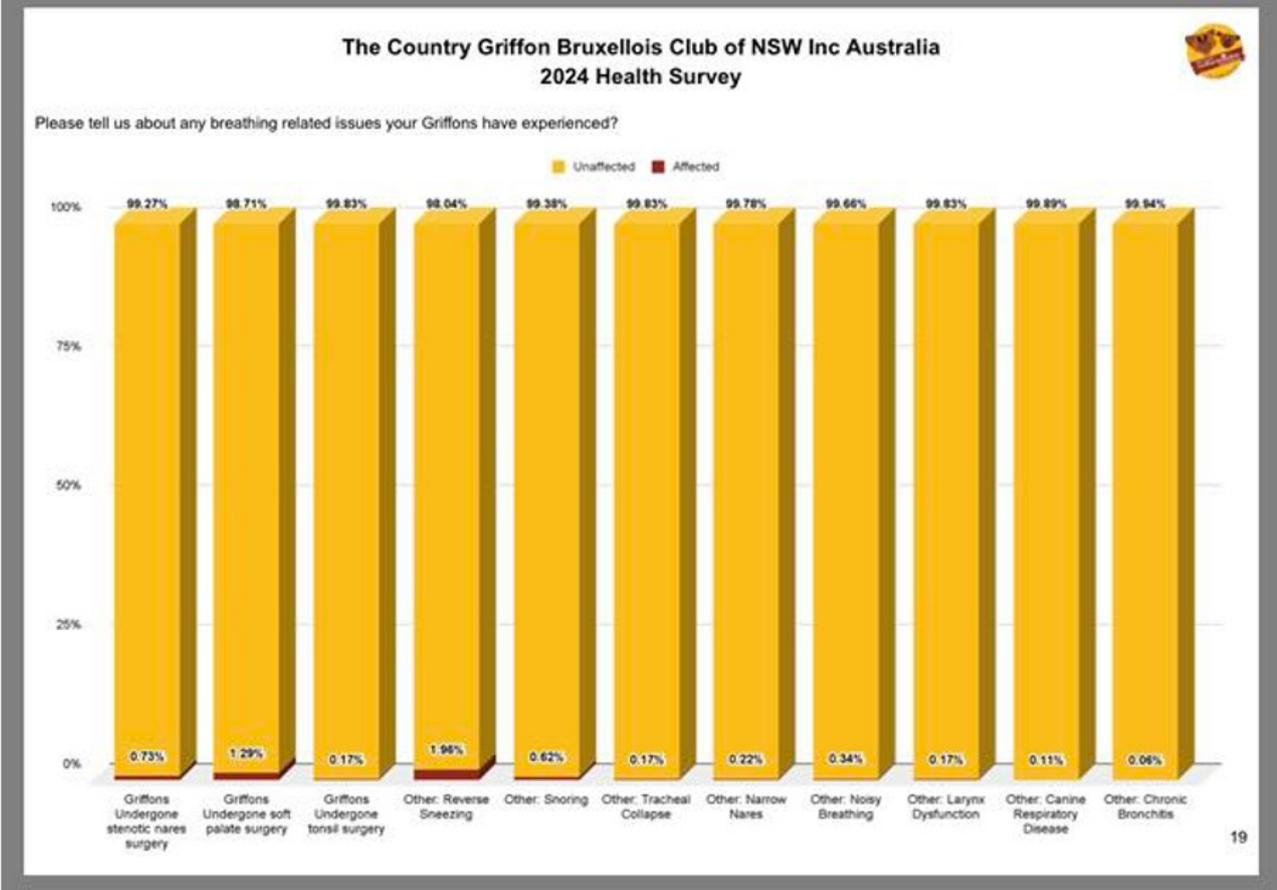
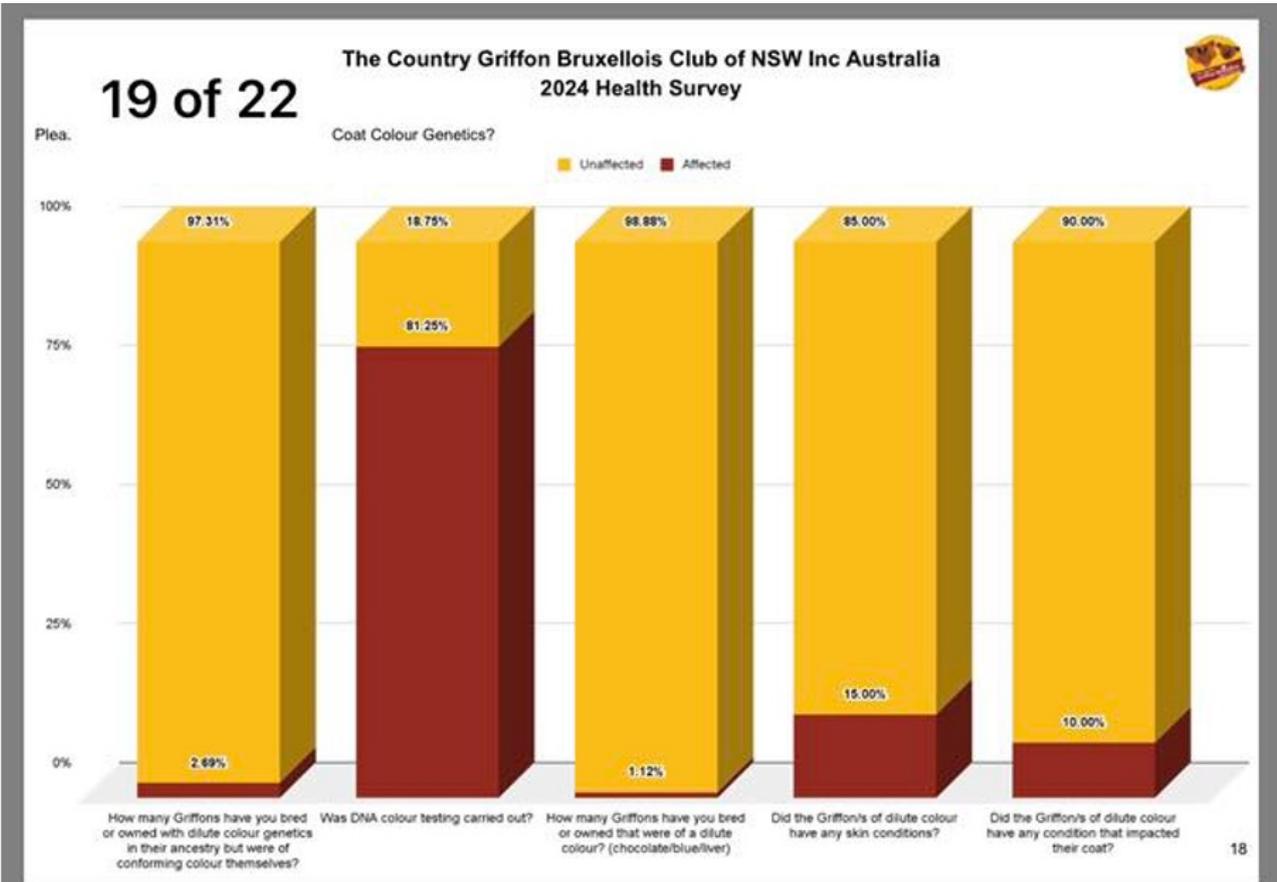


Question 17-18



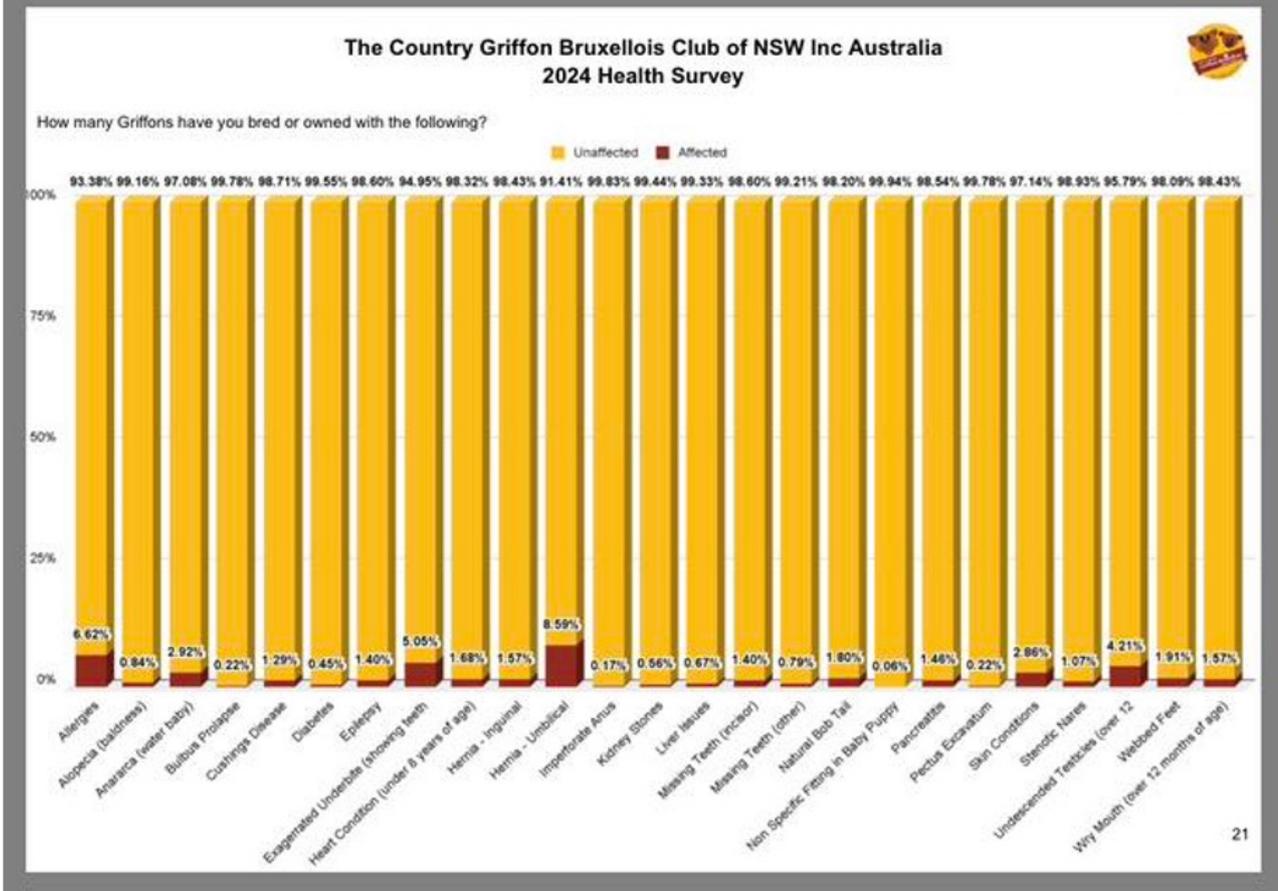
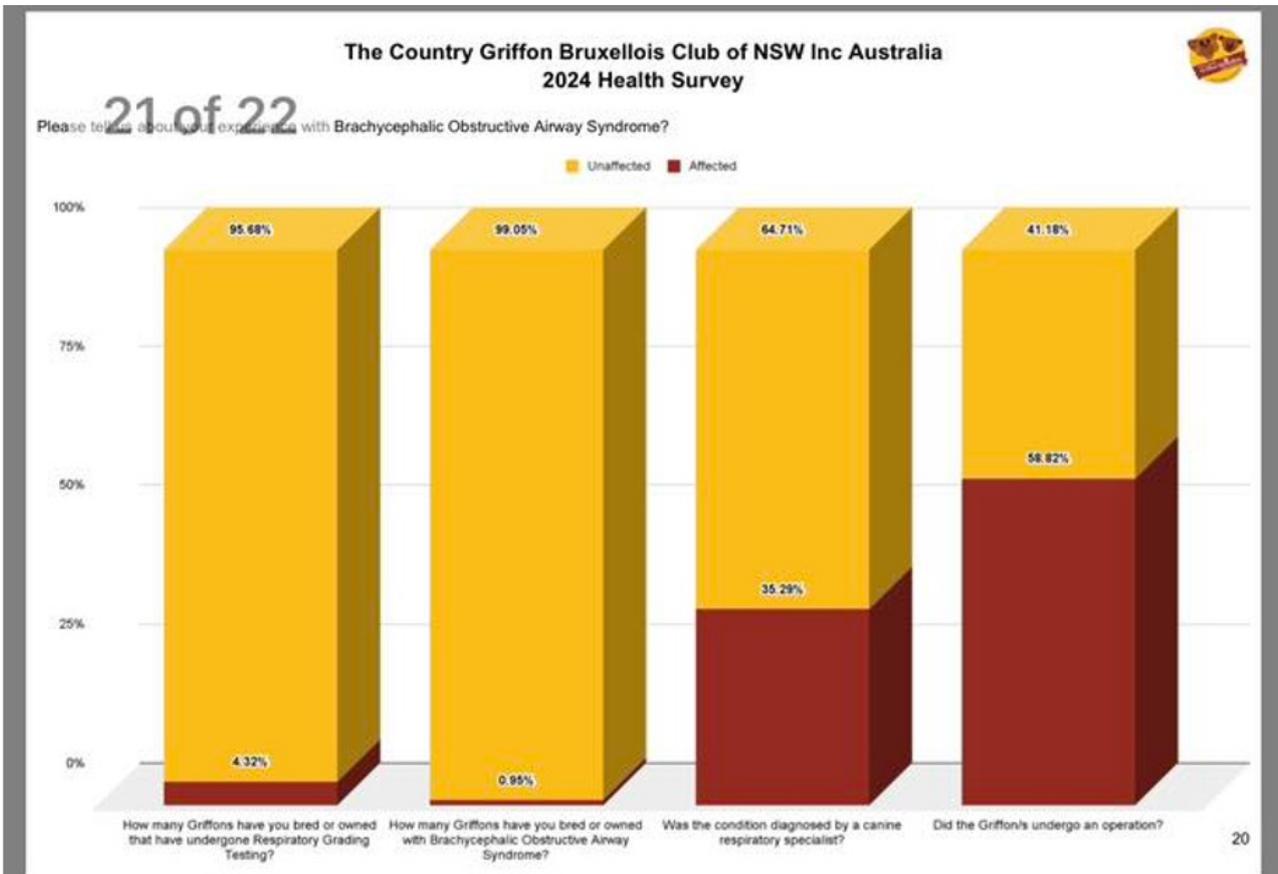


Question 19-20





Question 21-22





**The Country Griffon Bruxellois Club of NSW Inc Australia
2024 Health Survey**



Please list any other health issues (not covered in previous questions) you have experienced with any Griffons you have bred or owned

Acid reflux	IVDD
Addison's Disease	Juvenile Cellulitis
Allergies: Cooked chicken, Bees, Mould, Dust Mites, Protein, Meloxicam	Kidney Issues
Anal Gland issues	Liver Issues
Anxiety	Lymphoma
Arthritis	Mast Cell Tumour
Bladder Stones	Melanoma
Blood Disorder	Misshapen Kidneys
Cancer: Stomach, Testicular, Prostate, Blood, Ovarian, Breast	Myasthenia Gravis
Canine Atopic Dermatitis	Nervous Breakdown
Cognitive Heart Failure	Nose Ketosis
Demadetic Mange	Oesophagitis
Dental Disease	Pancreatitis
Enlarged Prostate	Precursor-Targeted Immune-Meditated Anemia
Extra Front Teeth	Protein Losing Enteropathy
Gallbladder Mucocele	Pyometra
Gastroschisis	Sensitive Stomach
Haemorrhagic Gastroenteritis	Soft Tissue Sarcoma
Heart Murmur	Underdeveloped in Size
Hemangiosarcoma	Underdeveloped Tail Vertebraes Loose in the Skin
Idiopathic Itchiness	Urinary Tract issues
Idiopathic Polirradiculoneuritis	Vestibular Disease
Immature Digestive System	Warty Growths
Inflammatory Bowel Didease	Yeast Infections

The above issues were identified in single figures, often only one or two dogs

Summary

1. Participants

The majority of participants were pet owners (60.7%), followed by breeder/ exhibitors (18.2%).

The pet owners have no vested interest in presenting false statistics so we can assume that the results are accurate.

If there was a bias, it would be skewed towards increasing issues rather than reducing them as a breeder could identify a condition and the pet owner who bought the dog, may identify the same condition, therefore doubling the incident report. It is therefor possible that the recorded issues ma be lower than reported but unlikely that they would be higher than reported in the survey



The majority of respondents were from Australia but a total of 19 countries participated.

The countries included the UK, the USA, Canada, Europe (both Eastern and Western European countries), Scandinavia and New Zealand

The majority of respondents had been involved with Griffons for 5 years with the longest breed involvement 60 years. Collectively there were decades of Griffon owning experience in the survey

The Dogs

The majority of Griffons surveyed were pedigree dogs registered with the recognised Kennel authority (77.1%).

16% were purebred but from unregistered breeders and of the remaining, the majority were either mixed Griffon breed or rescue. (15.1%)

15.1% of Griffons were bred by the owner, 68.6% were purchased from a recognised National Kennel Club breeder, 28.6% were purchased from breeders recommended by the breed club

The Conditions

1. **Eye**- 21 eye conditions were surveyed. Each condition was surveyed at less than 1%. 80.39% of eye conditions reported were diagnosed by a canine eye specialist.

2. **Neurological**- Only 1.68% of Griffons surveyed had been diagnosed with SM/CM by MRI and were symptomatic.

Of the 11 neurological conditions listed, the most common conditions reported were epilepsy and dementia with 0.67% for each.

90.7% of the conditions reported were diagnosed by a neurological specialist

3. **Structural Conditions**- the most common structural problem reported was patella luxation surveyed at (8.53%), followed by hip dysplasia(3.54%).

Eight further structural conditions were listed and all conditions were reported at below 1%.

81.40% of structural conditions reported were diagnosed by a canine specialist, recognised by a national health scheme.

4. **Birth Defects** –the most common birth defect identified was cleft palate (8.31%), and hare lip (1.01%) making a combined total of 9.32%.



Additionally, 2.92% of puppies were anasarca babies, and 8.59% had umbilical hernias and 4.21% had undescended testicles over 12 months.

5. **Colour-** Only 2.69% of Griffons were affected by dilute colour genetics, but not necessarily showing a dilute coat.

81.25% of the affected dogs were DNA tested by breeders.

15% of Griffons reported with a dilute coat colour had skin conditions, and 10% of the Griffons with dilute colour had other health conditions

6. **Breathing-** Only 0.95% of Griffons surveyed were reported to have had Brachycephalic Obstructive Airway Syndrome. Of the reported dogs, 35.29% were diagnosed by a canine respiratory specialist and after diagnosis, 58.82% of reported dogs underwent surgery.

7. **Other conditions identified by owners-** The most common, not previously mentioned, conditions reported by owners were allergies (6.62%) and exaggerated underbite (5.05%).

Comparison with the Results of the 2016 Health Survey

In 2016, the Country Griffon Bruxellois Club of NSW, conducted their first international health survey of Griffons.

The survey ran for one month from February to March 2016 and received 457 responses from individuals. These responses referred to over 9,000 Griffons making it the largest survey on the breed ever undertaken and arguably providing the most accurate assessment of the health of the breed in its entire history.

The full report of the initial survey can be found on the link below

<https://www.griffonsw.com/2016-international-griffon-health-survey.asp>

This survey showed the following results as the main health concerns of Griffons;

- Slipping Patellas – 2.48%
- Cleft Palate/ Hair Lip -0.21%
- Undescended testicles -0.014%
- Cataracts - 0.11%
- Inguinal Hernia – 0.010%

The 2025 health survey showed very little change.

Slipping patella still remains as the major structural issue and while it appears to have increased it is still under 10% of the breed.

Cleft palate/hair lips are still the most common form of birth defect along with small numbers of undescended testicles.



All eye issues were in the lowest percentage, all below 1% so it appears that the incidents with cataracts have remained very low.

Inguinal hernias appear to have remained low with only 1.57% of dogs presenting them.

Conclusions

Overall, this snapshot survey shows that the Griffon Bruxellois breed appears to be in a very healthy position. The previous most commonly identified conditions have shown no major increase and in some cases have diminished as a concern in the breed.

The conditions reported to be most commonly seen are not serious or life threatening conditions.

There have been many comments made over a decades, linking Griffons to high incidences of SM/CM. While no one disputes the seriousness of this condition, it is heartening to note that only 1.68% of Griffons on the survey were identified with this condition.

BOAS and breathing conditions were not a concern when the first survey was conducted.

The current survey, identified less than 1% of Griffons with BOAS.

Source of Griffons

Unlike the previous survey, the 2025 survey also identified the source of the Griffons. This is information rarely collected by other research groups but it is information that the club felt was vital if a serious investigation of Griffon health was undertaken.

If serious health issues were identified, it was deemed essential to find out if these issues were coming from recognised kennel club/ exhibition performance breeders or from unrecognised breeders.

It is of interest and significance that the majority of Griffons were bred by reputable and recognised breeders.

77% of the Griffons in the survey were pedigree Griffons from a recognised breeder, 68.6% of respondents identified the breeder as a breeder in a recognised national Kennel Club.

The stability and overall health of the breed is probably due to this factor more than anything else. The people breeding Griffons are primarily people dedicated to the breed, who are aware of health issues and actively try to breed healthy dogs.



The puppy farmers/ unrecognised breeders who breed commercially or irresponsibly or for gimmicks like unrecognised coat colours are a minority and only supply a small percent of the market.

The survey showed that the dogs with the dilute, unrecognised coat colours had a greater incident of skin problems and a higher percentage of other health problems identified by the owners. These are the dogs that are most likely to come from commercial, unrecognised breeders.

Anecdotally, Griffon Breed clubs around the world, are proactive in trying to educate the public about responsible breeding and encourage people to buy their Griffon from reputable breeders.

The survey showed that 72.7% of respondents were pet owners. Another 12.7% were pet owners who competed in exhibition or performance sports.

Only 6.5% of respondents were breeders, so it is clear that the pet owners and Griffon purchasers are benefiting from the responsible breeding practices of the majority of the breeders.

Future Actions

In the long term, if we wish to keep the breed healthy, it is essential that it is not undermined by puppy farmers and commercial irresponsible breeders who will drag it down the path of French Bulldogs, Pugs and British Bulldogs.

Ongoing education for the general public to only buy a Griffon from a reputable and recognised breeder is essential.

It is also essential that the overall, long standing health of Griffons as a breed is not misinterpreted and included in a generalised criticism of all Brachycephalic breeds. This can only be done if the responsible Kennel club registered breeders are encouraged, and the general public continue to be intelligent enough to only buy from reputable, recognised national Kennel club breeders

Hard data is particularly important when faced with the rise of misinformed anti-brachycephalic activism that is becoming enmeshed in some government regulations around the world.

Breeders and clubs must continue to health test and collect data in order to have hard facts to dispute to misinformation.

Clubs must continue to be collaborative and proactive in supporting health and promoting correct healthy examples of the breed. Health and Griffons that meet the breed standard are compatible and essential.

This survey is an example of positive collaboration between Griffon breeders and clubs around the world.



Finally...

The Country Griffon Bruxellois Club of NSW would like to thank everyone who contributed to this survey.

I would particularly like to thank the Club Secretary, Marousa Polias, who created and managed the survey and collated the huge volume of data to create the graphs.

Michelle Parker Brien (President. The Country Griffon Bruxellois Club of NSW)

