

Recruitment and characteristics of the cohort

Murray, J.K.¹, Casey, R.A.¹, Gale, E.¹, Buffington C.A.T.² and Gruffydd-Jones, T.J.¹

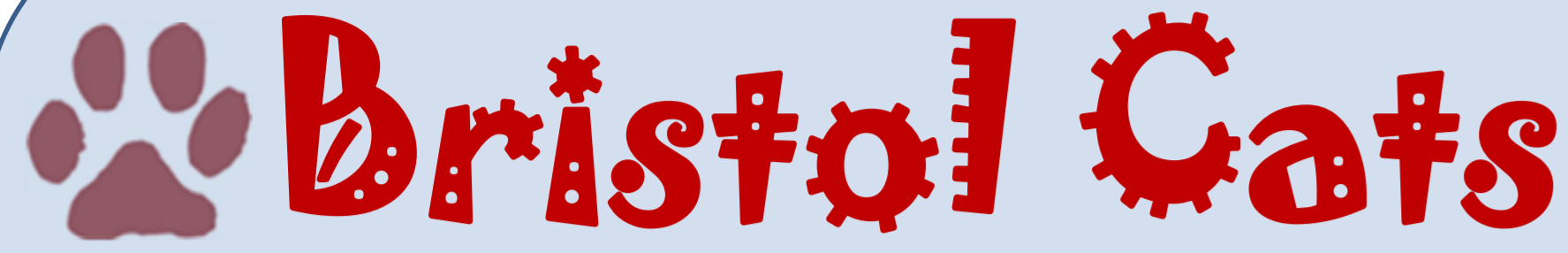
¹ School of Veterinary Science, University of Bristol, Langford House, Langford, Bristol, UK

² The Ohio State University, Columbus, USA



Jane.Murray@bristol.ac.uk

+44 (0)117 331 9206



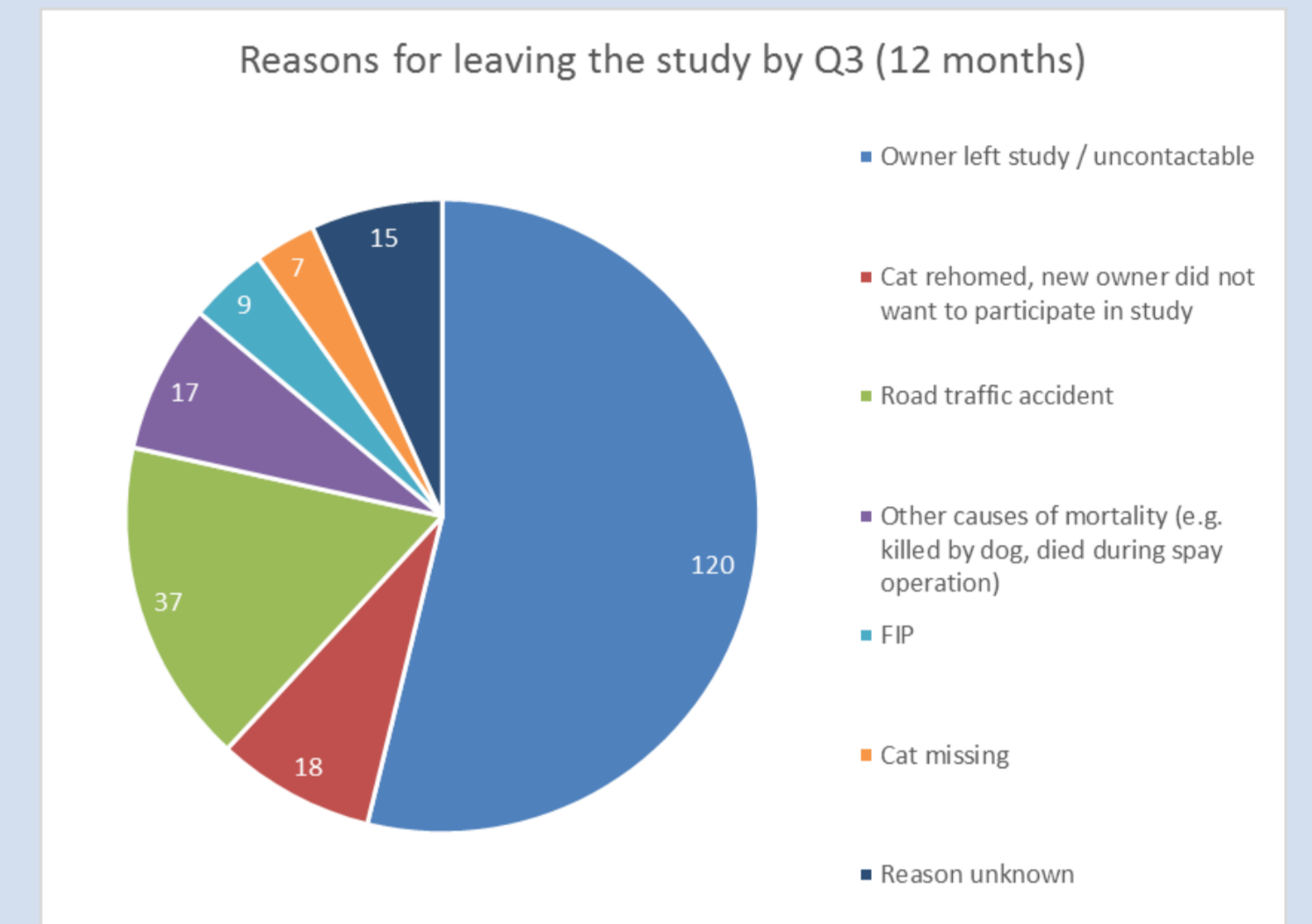
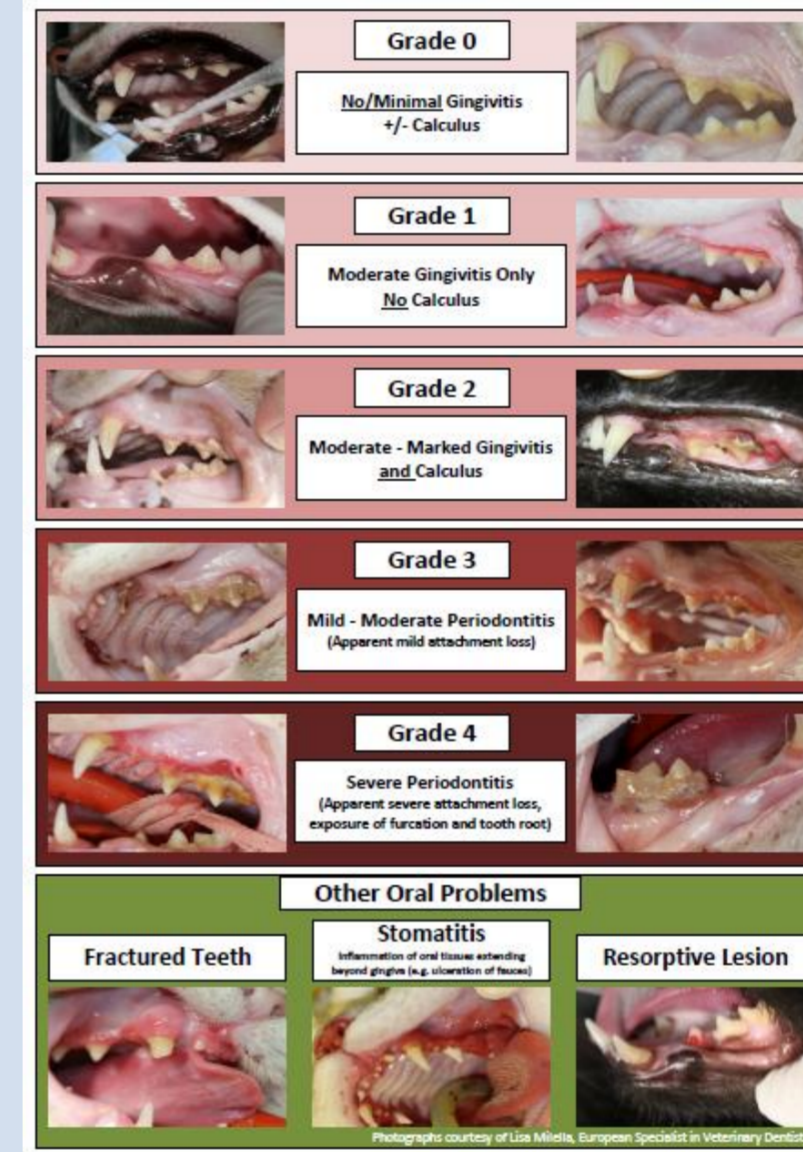
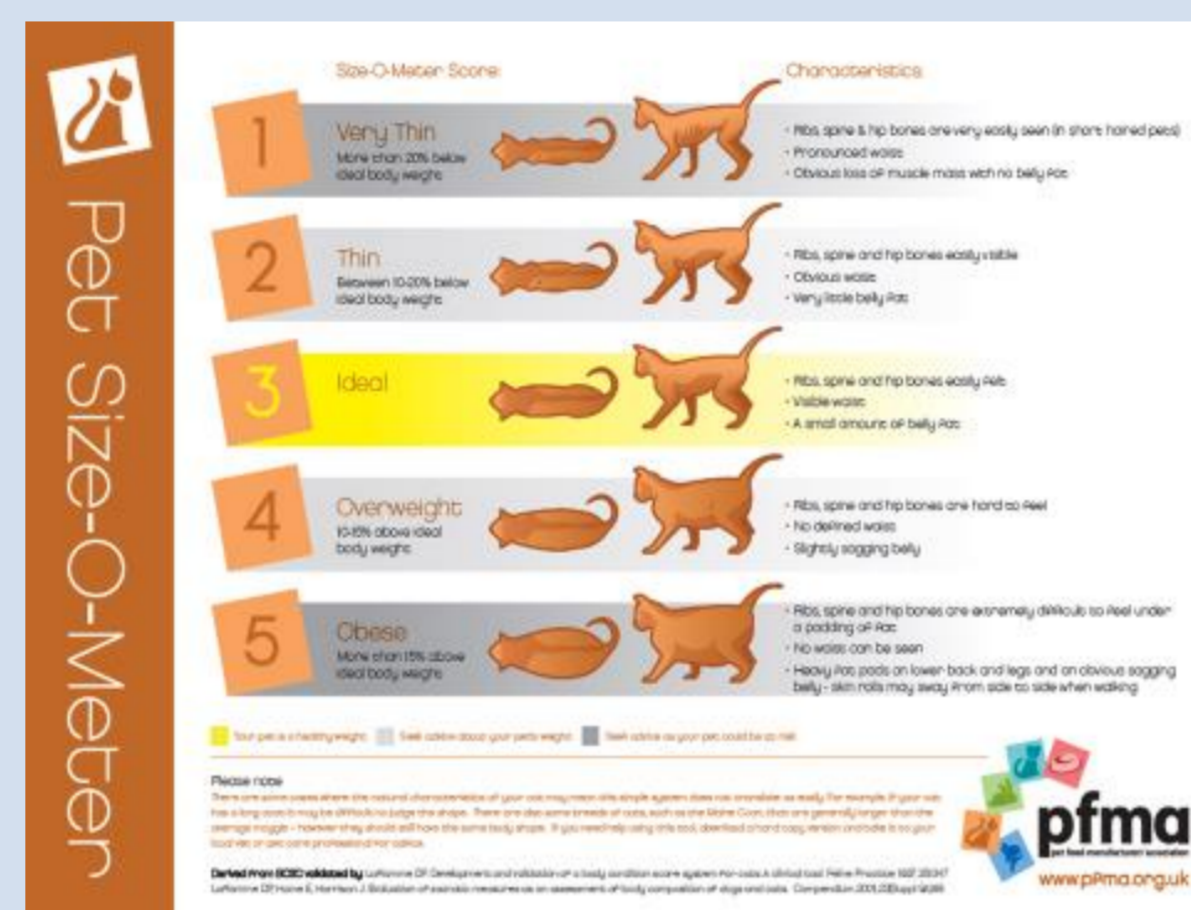
The aim of the study is to collect data prospectively to study risk factors for a range of outcomes including health, specific diseases, unwanted behaviours and obesity.

Recruitment:

- Pet kittens aged approximately 8-16 weeks were recruited to the study between 01/06/10 and 31/12/13.
- Study advertised using a variety of methods (e.g. vet practices, pet forums, rescue centres) to reduce selection bias.

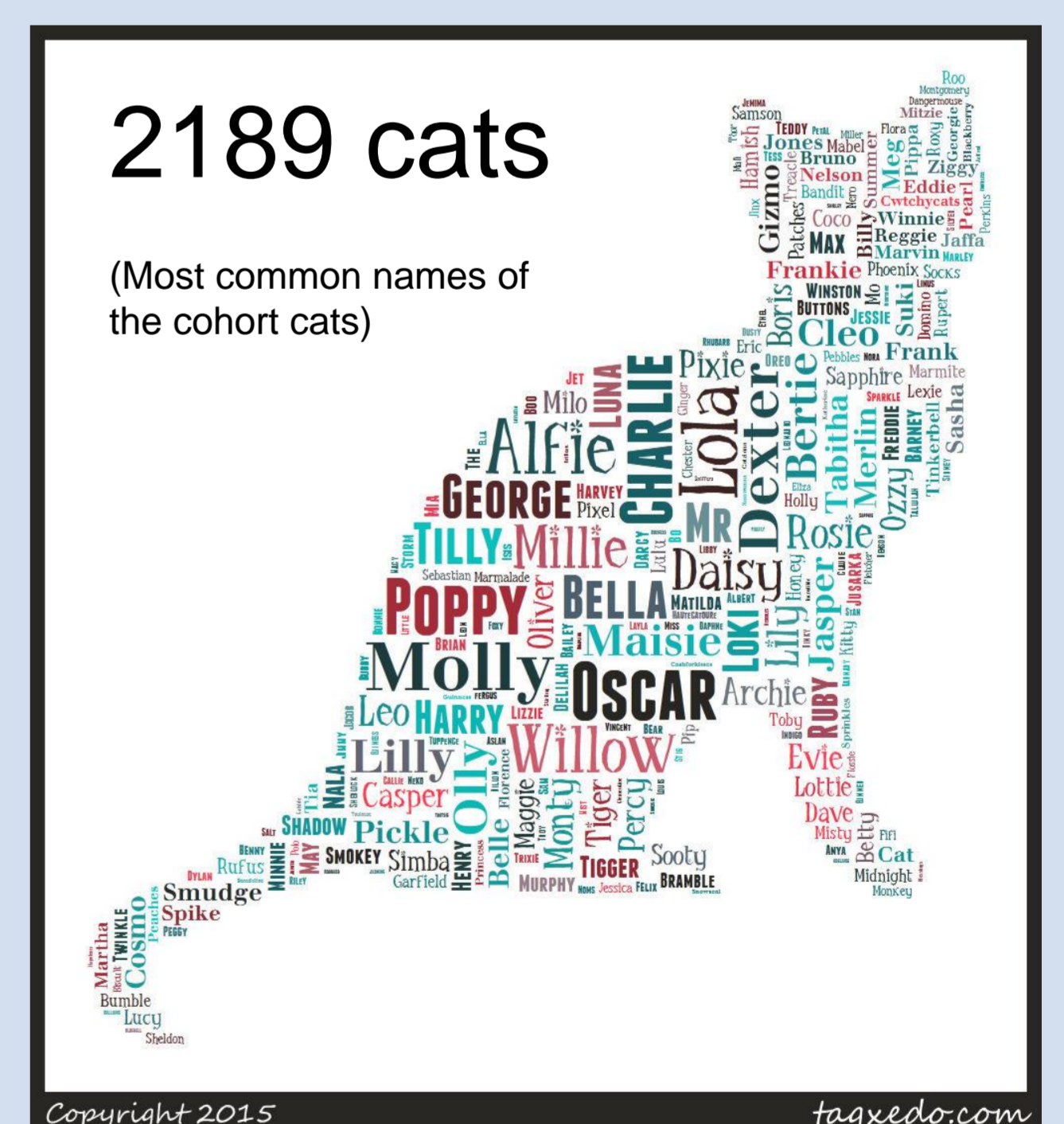
Data collection:

- **Owner-completed questionnaires.** Issued at registration (Q1), 6 months (Q2), 12 months (Q3), 18 months (Q4), 2.5 years (Q5) and 4 years (Q6), and annually thereafter.
- **Questionnaire completion rates:** Q2 = 1899 (86.8%), Q3 1725 (78.8%)
- **Data from vets.** (Additional data, and data to validate owner-reported information)
 - Body condition scores
 - Oral health scores
 - Veterinary records
 - **Buccal swabs** (for DNA)
 - **Faecal samples** (Age 6m, 2.5yrs)



Characteristics of the cohort: (Q1 data for 2189 cats, some missing data)

- **SEX:** 52.1% (1138) Male
- **MULTICAT HOUSEHOLDS:** 61.6% (1338) lived in multi-cat households (at Q1)
- **BREED:** 77.4% mixed breed/moggy, 22.6% pedigree (118 British Shorthair, 71 Maine Coon, 42 Ragdoll, 40 Siamese, 36 Bengal, 26 Burmese, 16 Birman, 15 Norwegian Forest Cat, 12 Persian, 13 Oriental shorthair, 98 other breeds each with <10 cats)
- **SOURCE:**
 - 45.1% (988) friends/relatives/neighbours, local adverts
 - 18.5% (404) rescue centres
 - 18.6% (406) pedigree breeders
 - 7.7% (168) bred by owner (63 accidentally)
 - 7.3% (159) stray/feral/abandoned
 - 2.9% (64) pet shop / other



OWNER CHARACTERISTICS:

