

# Prevalence And Demographics Of Australian Burmese Cats With Diabetes Mellitus

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## PREVALENCE AND DEMOGRAPHICS OF AUSTRALIAN BURMESE CATS WITH DIABETES MELLITUS

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Diabetes mellitus (DM) is one of the most frequently diagnosed endocrine disorders in cats. Although DM appears to be more prevalent in Burmese cats, there has been scarce research to date investigating association between demographic characteristics and DM in this breed.<sup>1,2,3</sup>

De-identified electronic patient records (EPR) stored in the VetCompass Australia database were searched to identify purebred Burmese cats diagnosed with DM by their veterinarian between January 1, 2011, and December 31, 2020. Logistic regression analysis was employed to characterise the relationship between sex, neuter status, age at diagnosis, maximum body mass recorded in the EPR, coat colour and a diagnosis of DM.

Of 8,936 Burmese cats included in the dataset, 268 were diagnosed with DM, yielding a period prevalence of 2.99% (95% confidence interval [CI]: 2.98 - 3.01). Male cats had an increased risk of developing DM compared to females (RR 1.40) and neutered cats had an increased risk compared to intact cats (RR 2.51). Maximum body mass in the EPR category 4.0 to 4.9 kg (30.9%) and age at diagnosis category 12 to 14.9 years (39.8%) contained the largest proportion of diabetic cats. Coat colour was not associated with DM diagnosis.

Description of prevalence and patient demographics provides valuable knowledge for veterinarians and Burmese cat owners to understand potential risk factors and monitor for early signs of DM. Further research into the impact of body condition score and/or mass on development of DM could increase focus on lifestyle factors to decrease DM in the Burmese population.

### References

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