increased risk of developing individual liver diseases, and to report age and gender predispositions.

METHODS

Histopathology results from feline liver tissues submitted to a commercial laboratory between April 2008 and September 2015 were retrospectively evaluated. The diagnosis according to WSAVA criteria was recorded along with breed, age and gender. Cases were excluded if no definitive diagnosis was reached or if data was incomplete. To identify potential breed predispositions, comparison was made using a UK-based control population consisting of microchipped cats, and odds ratios and 95% confidence intervals calculated. The Mann-Whitney U test was used to determine significant age predispositions.

RESULTS

In total 1452 feline liver samples were assessed, of which 235 were excluded. The most frequent diseases were neutrophilic cholangitis (n=258), reactive hepatitis (n=257), reversible hepatocellular injury (n=106), lymphocytic cholangitis (n=85), biliary cysts (n=73), acute hepatitis (n=70), hematopoietic neoplasia (n=70), hepatocellular neoplasia (n=62), congenital portosystemic shunts (n=48) and cholangiocellular neoplasia (n=39). Breed, age and gender predispositions were identified to several of these.

IMPACT

The liver diseases diagnosed in a large cohort of cats in the UK are reported, along with apparent breed, age and gender predispositions. This information may aid clinicians when diagnosing a cat with suspected liver disease.

The prevalence of gallbladder dysfunction and disease in young dogs investigated for chronic gastrointestinal disease

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OBJECTIVES

To investigate the prevalence of gallbladder disorders in young dogs with suspected chronic gastrointestinal disease.

METHODS

A cross-sectional study was conducted based on clinical records of a private practice.

Inclusion criteria were: dogs under five years old, presenting with any clinical signs of anorexia, abdominal pain, vomiting and increased frequency of defecation with or without diarrhoea that persisted for more than six weeks after worm treatment and elimination diet trial

and worm treatment. Complete blood counts (CBC), biochemistry, abdominal x-rays and ultrasound were performed.

Gallbladder disorders tested for included gallbladder distention (>1ml bile/kg body mass), reduced biliary ejection fraction (<25%), biliary sludge and gallbladder wall thickness. Gallbladder distension, ejection fraction, sludge and wall thickness were assessed ultrasonographically. The prevalence of gallbladder disorders was determined. Pain was evaluated pre- and post-operatively, where cholecystectomy was appropriate.

RESULTS

Nineteen dogs met the inclusion criteria. The prevalence for gallbladder disorders was 63%. Concurrent gastrointestinal disease was typical but not consistent. Concurrent skin and ear disorders were a frequent finding. CBC and biochemistry were typically unremarkable.

The prevalence for concurrent cranial abdominal pain was 42%. Where cholecystectomy was performed, resolution of pain was a consistent finding.

STATEMENT

Compared to human medicine, information on prevalence and relevance of gallbladder disorders in veterinary medicine is scarce and when treating and investigating chronic gastrointestinal disease in veterinary practice, gallbladder disorders may be given more consideration.

Biliary-type pain should be considered in dogs with a gallbladder disorder and can be resolved with cholecystectomy.