Oral presentations

study, cases had to have been prescribed at least three repeat anti-epileptic drug prescriptions at the point of data collection. To assess the level of owner compliance, tablets were counted for each prescription to determine if the patient had a sufficient number to cover the period of time between prescriptions. A Mann-Whitney U-test was used for statistical comparisons and a p-value of <0.05 was deemed significant.

RESULTS

Median compliance of the ninety-four cases was 57%. There was no significant difference found between insured and non-insured patients or whether the patient

was receiving either one or multiple tablets or doses per day. Patients that were receiving two or more different anti-epileptic drugs (AEDs) were found to have a higher compliance rate than patients receiving only one AED ($P=0.04$).

CONCLUSION

More than half of owners of canine epilepsy patients are not fully compliant. Owners of dogs needing multiple AEDs have a higher compliance. A low compliance rate could impact on the success of AEDs so awareness needs to be raised to veterinarians to help improve compliance in their clients.

Do biomechanical differences exist between neurologically normal French Bulldogs with and without spinal kyphosis?

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OBJECTIVES

Compare temporal-spatial gait analysis variables in neurologically normal French Bulldogs with and without spinal kyphosis.

METHODS

French Bulldogs which presented to a dedicated Brachycephalic Clinic were prospectively enrolled. Included dogs underwent general physical, orthopaedic, and

neurological examination. The presence of spinal kyphosis was evaluated by computed tomography and spinal kyphosis was defined as a modified Cobb angle exceeding 10° . Temporal-spatial gait variables were collected with a pressure-sensitive, portable (Gait4dog) walkway and data analysed using Gait4 software. Patients were walked until three valid trials were attained within 30 minutes. A trial was considered valid when the dog walked straight ahead, at an even pace, with the head centered straight forward. Univariate analysis was performed to identify variables which could be taken forward into a generalised estimating equation.

RESULTS

Eighteen French bulldogs with ($n=10$) or without kyphosis ($n=8$) were included. Three gait variables were statistically significant between the two groups. Mean pressure in the left thoracic limb was greater in dogs without kyphosis ($p=0.007$), reach in the left pelvic limb was greater in dogs with kyphosis (<0.001), and total pressure index was greater in the right thoracic limb of dogs with kyphosis ($p=0.003$).

STATEMENT

Although spinal kyphosis is only rarely associated with neurological deficits, it appears to be associated with biomechanical alterations and subtle gait abnormalities. Further studies are needed to evaluate the clinical importance of altered temporal-spatial gait variables and biomechanics in French Bulldogs with spinal kyphosis.

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