Oral presentations

An Investigation into Gastric-dilation volvulus (GDV) in UK Deerhounds

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OBJECTIVES

GDV has been reported to be responsible for 7% of Deerhound mortality. A breeder focus group also identified GDV as having a major impact on breed health. Our objective was to identify specific epidemiological factors reported by owners in relation to their dog's GDV, including familial relationships, exercise and feeding practices and other husbandry practices that differed between affected and unaffected Deerhounds.

METHODS

Paper-based and online questionnaires consisting of 64 questions covering animal particulars and husbandry

practices were disseminated via the Deerhound Club UK to owners and breeders throughout the UK. Of 145 responses, 37 were affected by GDV. All neuter status and gender combinations were represented, with an age range from 0.5 to 13.5 years.

RESULTS

Responses were analysed by two-way ANOVA. No significant differences ($p>0.05$) were observed between affected and unaffected populations reported temperament, body condition score and feeding practices (speed of consumption, number of animals in contact at feeding, frequency and size of feeds, air gulping, audible borborygmi and eructation) were examined.

However, of the affected individuals, 11 were reported by owners to have suffered a preceding 'triggering event' and an additional 5 owners reported an event, which could be considered a 'stressor.' The event reported by the owners was most commonly a prolonged car journey.

STATEMENT

This apparent relationship between an inciting stressful event and the subsequent development of a GDV events warrants further consideration. At this stage we suggest owners consider this possible relationship and recommend increased vigilance for GDV-associated signs following long car journeys and stressful events.

The use of capsule endoscopy alongside abdominal ultrasonography in an 11 year old Flatcoated Retriever

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OBJECTIVES

The objective was to utilise capsule endoscopy (ALICAM; Infiniti Medical) as an adjunctive imaging modality, following no detectable ultrasonographic abnormalities in a chronic vomiting case. The aim was to seek additional information about both the appearance of the gastrointestinal tract and transit times without the need for general anaesthesia. This was the first use of this device in the North West of the United Kingdom.

METHODS

An 11 year old, female (neutered) Flatcoated Retriever presented with an eight week history of vomiting, altered feeding habits and reduced appetite. No discernable abnormalities were detected at initial gastrointestinal investigations, including; haematology, biochemistry, serum cobalamin, trypsin-like immunoreactivity, faecal sampling and abdominal ultrasonography with a board-certified imager. Response to a four-week novel-protein diet trial and omeprazole 1mg/kg orally once daily, was minimal. Following a 24-hour starve, the camera device was administered orally and passed uneventfully in the faeces.

RESULTS

A total of 36982 images were obtained over an 18.4hour period. Gastric (7.5hours) and oesophageal (18minutes) transit times were both prolonged. Gastric erosions and thickening of the duodenal mucosa were evident despite no abnormalities on ultrasonography. The dog responded positively to the addition of metoclopramide 0.25mg/kg orally twice daily.

STATEMENT

Capsule endoscopy is useful in first opinion practice as a non-invasive, affordable, adjunctive imaging modality, forgoing general anaesthesia. ALI provides information about gastrointestinal transit time, alongside mucosal appearance, which were not detectable on ultrasonography alone.

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