Prevalence of disorders in Miniature Schnauzers attending UK primary-care practices

**Charlotte Butcher, Dave. C Brodbelt,
David. B Church, Dan.G O'Neill**

RVC, Hertfordshire, UK

OBJECTIVES

The Miniature Schnauzer has increased in popularity over the last two decades, with the number of puppies being registered with the Kennel Club doubling over this period. This study aimed to describe the demography and disorders in Miniature Schnauzers attending UK primary veterinary practice.

METHODS

All dogs recorded as Miniature Schnauzer and under veterinary care during 2013 were extracted from the

VetCompass database of primary-care clinical records. The full clinical records of a random sample were manually examined in detail to extract data on all disorders recorded during 2013.

RESULTS

The study examined 1,970 (51.1%) from the overall 3,857 Miniature Schnauzers identified. The median age was 3 years 11 months (IQR: 1 year 7 months to 6 years 5 months). Overall, 63.8% of the females and 49.4% of the males were neutered.

The most prevalent disorders were dental disease (n=357, 18.1%, 95% CI 16.4-19.8%), obesity (n=165, 8.4%, 95% CI 7.2-9.6%), anal sac impaction (n=116, 5.8%, 95% CI 4.8-6.8%), vomiting (n=106, 5.4%, 95% CI 4.4-6.9%), otitis externa (n=101, 5.1%, 95% CI 4.2-6.1%), ear disorder (n=100, 5.1%, 95% CI 4.1-6.1%), heart murmur (n=82, 4.2%, 95% CI 3.3-5.0%), diarrhoea (n=82, 4.2%, 95% CI 3.3-5.0%) and skin mass (n=70, 3.6%, 95% CI 2.7-4.4%).

STATEMENT

These results provide generalisable and up to-date evidence to inform veterinarians, breeders and dog owners on the common health issues affecting the Miniature Schnauzer. This study will also help to prioritise disorders for future research in Miniature Schnauzers.

Preliminary findings of an investigation into the efficacy of heparinised saline solution versus normal saline solution for maintaining patency of peripheral intravenous catheters in dogs

**Helen Silver, Karen Webster,
Jennifer Barlow, Mellora Sharman,
Asher Allison**

Animal Health Trust, Newmarket, Suffolk, UK

OBJECTIVES

To establish the efficacy of heparinised versus normal saline solution in maintaining intravenous catheter patency in dogs.

METHODS

Prospective randomised double blinded clinical investigation. Twelve client owned dogs hospitalised for radiotherapy requiring an intravenous catheter for at least 24 hours had a 20g catheter placed in their cephalic vein. Flush solution was either 2 IU ml⁻¹ heparin in 0.9% saline (Group HS) or 0.9% saline only (Group S) and patients requiring subsequent catheters were reassigned to the alternative solution with each successive placement. Upon removal a questionnaire was completed to capture duration of placement and reasons for removal or loss. Data were tested for normality and analysed with Mann Whitney U and Fisher's Exact tests; $p < 0.05$ was considered significant.

RESULTS

Thirty-five catheters (17 Group HS, 18 Group S) were placed in 12 dogs; median placement duration was 91.6 (30.4-105.6) hours. Catheter loss overall was 18% (Group HS) and 28% (Group S). Loss due to thrombus formation was 5.9% (Group HS) and 5.5% (Group S). No significant differences for catheter duration ($p = 0.82$).

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reason for loss ($p=0.60$) or thrombus formation ($p=0.96$) were found. Using this information, to demonstrate non-inferiority of saline only flush in relation to catheter loss from thrombus formation, a sample size of 2924 ($\alpha=0.025$, $\beta=0.8$, $\delta=-0.02$) would be required.

STATEMENT

Preliminary findings suggest no significant difference between treatment groups. Use of saline alone may remove risks associated with heparin saline, without increasing the risk of thrombus formation.

Offering female cat neutering assistance to cat hoarders as a tool to improve the welfare of the colony in 10 multicat households

Kayleigh Hill¹, David Yates¹, Rachel Dean², Jenny Stavisky²

- 1 RSPCA Greater Manchester Animal Hospital, Greater Manchester, UK
- 2 Nottingham School of Veterinary Medicine and Science, Leicestershire, UK

OBJECTIVES

Animal hoarding is a recognised human psychiatric disorder defined by accumulation of large numbers of animals and failure to provide minimal standards of nutrition, sanitation, and veterinary care. Hoarding is a particularly challenging scenario for the RSPCA Inspectorate, with high levels of recidivism following intervention, typically confiscation. The aim of this study was to determine if offering female cat neutering assistance to multicat owners significantly improved colony health.

METHODS

Case definition included five or more cats of breeding age, at least one entire female, and a public complaint. Inspectors referred cases of concern to an RSPCA vet, who initially conducted a welfare assessment and micro-chipping of all cats present. All entire females aged over eight weeks were neutered and basic animal care education provided. A follow up visit was completed two months later to reassess welfare parameters and population numbers.

RESULTS

The total number of cats was 176 in ten households (range 7–33, mean 18). All owners consented to having all entire females spayed.

In 8/10 houses, the mean welfare score was significantly improved at the two monthly revisit.

In one house, there was a slight deterioration, and in the final house, the cats were all voluntarily signed over into RSPCA care following the initial visit.

STATEMENT

Animal hoarding has previously been an intractable welfare concern with little evidence informing intervention techniques. These results show that positive veterinary engagement on site can have beneficial effects on animal welfare. Further evidence is required to determine if changes are sustainable over a longer period.

An epidemiological study of feline idiopathic cystitis in cats attending a first-opinion veterinary practice in Seoul, South Korea

Younjung Kim¹, Hyungjoon Kim², Dirk Pfeiffer^{1,3}, David Brodbelt¹

- 1 Royal Veterinary College, Production and Population Health, Hawkshead Lane, North Mymms, Hatfield, AL9 7TA, Hertfordshire, UK
- 2 Baek-San Feline Medical Centre, 725-15 Yeoksam-dong, Gangnam-gu, Seoul, KR
- 3 City University of Hong Kong, School of Veterinary Medicine, Kowloon, HK

OBJECTIVES

The objective of this study was to investigate the prevalence and risk factors for the diagnosis of feline idiopathic cystitis (FIC) in a primarily indoor environment.

METHODS

A case-control study nested in a cohort of cats attending a first-opinion veterinary practice was undertaken. Cats presented with lower urinary tract signs (LUTS) were classified as FIC cases when a physical examination,