Oral presentations

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,

urine culture, abdominal radiography and ultrasonography failed to specify the cause of LUTS. Data were collected from cats' owners by questionnaire and analysed by multivariate logistic regression.

RESULTS

Fifty-eight FIC cases and 281 randomly selected controls were surveyed. The prevalence of FIC was 1.77% (95%CI=1.36-2.18%). 91.4% and 94.0% of the cases and controls were housed entirely indoors, respectively. There was good evidence for a nonlinear association between age and FIC diagnosis ($P=0.009$); the odds of FIC diagnosis increased steeply until plateauing at around the age of five. Males had 2.47 times the odds of being diagnosed with FIC compared to females

(95%CI=1.25-4.89, $P=0.007$). Cats in an 'insufficient' environment were more likely to be diagnosed with FIC than those in a 'sufficient' environment (OR=3.32, 95%CI=1.77-6.23, $P<0.001$). Cats cohabiting with other cats had 2.06 times the odds of FIC diagnosis over those living alone (95%CI=1.07-3.92, $P=0.026$). Cats using non-clumping litter were more likely to be diagnosed with FIC than those using clumping litter (OR=2.60, 95%CI=1.37-4.92, $P=0.003$).

STATEMENT

The findings suggest that strategies to reduce stress from both the cat's physical and social environment could be considered in the prevention and management of FIC.

Influence of living in a single or multi-cat household on sickness and behaviour at age 2.5 years

Claire Roberts, Timothy Gruffydd-Jones, Jane Murray

University of Bristol, Bristol, UK

OBJECTIVES

Living in multi-cat households has been implicated as a risk factor for various feline diseases. The aim was to identify associations between multi-cat households and feline health and behaviour.

METHODS

Data from the Bristol Cats Study, a UK longitudinal study of pet cats based primarily on owner-completed questionnaires, were used. Cats were included if questionnaires one (2-4 months) through to five (2.5 years) were completed, and they had remained in either a single or

multi-cat household throughout. For owners with multiple eligible cats, one was included randomly.

Univariable and multivariable logistic regression models were used to analyse associations between single/multi-cat households and measures of health (obesity, cat bite abscesses), and behaviour (negative interactions with owner) where there was sufficient statistical power. Single cat households (SCHs) were compared with both agonistic multi-cat households (AMCHs: where agonistic behaviours occurred between cats) and non-agonistic multi-cat households (NMCHs).

RESULTS

Cats in NMCHs had decreased risk of negative interactions with the owner, compared to SCHs and AMCHs ($p<0.001$).

There was no evidence of a significant association between living in single/multi-cat households and the likelihood of obesity or abscesses.

STATEMENT

The health measures investigated were not significantly associated with MHCs, and the likelihood of negative interactions with the owner was influenced by the cats' relationships, rather than the multi-cat household itself. This indicates that the influence of household may be more nuanced than the categories 'single' or 'multi-cat' when considering the effects on some aspects of cats' health and behaviour.