Oral presentations

and 12 dogs died. The final diagnosis for the feline survivors was idiopathic chyloabdomen (1) and post chylothorax surgery (1) and for dogs was idiopathic chyloabdomen (2), inflammatory enteropathy (1) and cardiac disease (1).

STATEMENT

This is the largest case study describing chyloabdomen. Chyloabdomen has a variety of causes, and has a poor prognosis.

Is there a difference in pain-related behaviours between tortoises receiving different analgesic protocols?

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OBJECTIVES

- To compare the differences between giving a NSAID, or a combination of both a NSAID and an opioid, on improving pain-related behaviours in tortoises

METHODS

As an observational study at a veterinary hospital, tortoises indicated to receive either an opioid or NSAID as analgesic treatment by a veterinary surgeon were monitored for pain-related behaviours over time. The author monitored pre- and post-pain-related behaviours

after drug administration, at intervals of 6, 12 and 24 hours.

These behaviours included feeding, activity levels, whether the eyes were open or closed, neck extension, responsiveness, and limb withdrawal. Chi-squared was used to look for significant differences, at $P \leq 0.05$.

RESULTS

70% ($n=28$) of tortoises received only meloxicam as analgesia, and 30% ($n=12$) received both meloxicam and tramadol. There was a significant difference between feeding and drug administration pre-treatment and 6 hours.

post treatment ($P=0.021$ and $P=0.023$ respectively). There was no significant difference in any of the other pain-related behaviours between tortoises receiving NSAIDs and a combination of both NSAID and opioid drugs.

($P>0.05$), pre-treatment and at 6, 12 and 24 hours post treatment. Higher decreases in pain-related behaviour were however observed in those tortoises that received both drugs, compared to those that received only meloxicam.

STATEMENT

The research emphasises the current lack of understanding of pain and pain-related behaviour in tortoises in veterinary practice. There is a continued need for further larger-scale randomised controlled studies to determine whether meloxicam or tramadol alone, or a combination of both is more efficacious in tortoises.

The use of an omental pedicle to manage focal encephalitis in a cat

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OBJECTIVES

The aim of the study was to present a surgery case for treating encephalitis.

METHODS

An 11-year-old female cat, DSH presented with a three-week history of sudden blindness and circling. Neurological examination revealed reduced pupillary light in the left eye and menace response in the right eye. MR-scans of the skull were performed which revealed a high T2W signal area within the subdermal tissues, which extended into the left temporal lobes. FeLV/FIV an testing was negative, while CSF examination was normal. Over the first 24 h, the cat was stabilized with supportive care, including mannitol and intravenous antibiotics. The following day, repeat neurological examination showed no changes and exploratory craniotomy was done. Anticipating the use of omentum, a standard, inverted 'L' pedicle of the dorsal leaf of the greater omentum was raised via a midline celiotomy. The pedicle was exited through a left paracostal incision and the abdomen was closed. The omental pedicle was tacked lightly into position over the parietal. Finally, tissue was submitted for histopathology;

this revealed suppurative meningoencephalitis. Postoperatively, were administered opioids, NSAID's and antibiotics.

RESULTS

After 24 h, the neurological deficits had returned and appetite was good. By 48 h menace response was considerably improved. By three days all neurological deficits

had resolved, and the cat was discharged. Repeat examinations revealed an unremarkable recovery and there had been no recurrence of signs in the 18 months since surgery.

STATEMENT

The use of omentum could apply in cases of encephalitis do not respond to antimicrobials.

An evaluation of attitudes and the level of compliance of a surgical safety checklist used for small animal surgery

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OBJECTIVES

The aim of the study was to investigate the attitudes of theatre staff to the use of a surgical safety checklist and the perceived level of compliance.

METHODS

A questionnaire was designed and distributed to theatre staff. The questionnaire was completed by a range of theatre personnel, including surgeons, anaesthetists, nurses

and theatre assistants, to obtain responses on their attitudes and the level of compliance of the hospital's surgical checklist. Responses to each question were allocated a five-point scale from 1 = Strongly disagree to 5 = Strongly agree.

Descriptive statistics were used to describe the data.

RESULTS

Responses were obtained from 36 theatre staff. The majority of staff (77%) strongly agreed that they believed the checklist improved patient safety. The majority (77%) also strongly agreed that the checklist was used for every procedure in theatre. However, only 19% of staff strongly agreed that when the checklist is being carried out, everyone stops and listens. Only 58% strongly agreed that the surgeons were in full support of the checklist. Staff stated that barriers to the use of the checklist included a lack of staff (27%), a lack of staff assertiveness (22%) and lack of time (19%).

STATEMENT

Although staff believed that the use of a surgical checklist improves patient safety there are a number of barriers to its effective use. Staff training should focus on overcoming these to improve the effectiveness of the checklist.

Salivary cortisol as a screening test for endocrine diseases in dogs and cats

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OBJECTIVES

Salivary cortisol measures free cortisol and follows the fluctuations of serum cortisol. The aims of this study were to measure salivary cortisol in small animals and to determine if there was a good correlation between salivary and serum cortisol.

METHODS

The pilot study included 5 dogs and 5 cats to test four different methods of saliva collection: filter paper, cotton wool balls, 6-inch ('small Q-tip') and 5-inch ('large Q-tip') single cotton wool tip applicators. For the main part of the study, animals were included if their diagnostic work-up required a serum sample or an ACTH stimulation test. Saliva samples were frozen at -25°C after collection. Samples were thawed and centrifuged (20 minutes, 3000rpm, 4°C) and salivary cortisol was determined

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