and the best accuracy (53/74 [72%] within $\pm 10\%$).
Of the predictive equations tested, those based upon MER and TBW predict initial EI requirement for weight loss

better than those based upon RER or SBW. Factoring in sex and neuter status improves the accuracy of predictions, and such equations can be easily used in general practice.

Proof of longer life?: Exceptional longevity in a cohort of 39 Labrador retrievers

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The aim of this study was to describe the longevity of 39 pedigree adult neutered Labrador retrievers enrolled in to one study group with a median age of 6.5 years at the start of the study on 16 July 2004. As of 01 October 2015, 1 dog remained alive. The longevity of this group of dogs was compared to 3 other groups of pedigree Labrador retrievers taken from previously published studies:

- Longevity study group fed to maintain a body condition score between 2 and 4 on a 5-point scale
- Kennel Club (KC) survey dogs owned as pets and by

- breeders and kept by owners/breeders
- 'Restricted' group fed 25% less than a sibling pair in 'control' group
- 'Control' group initially fed ad libitum and then fed a restricted amount of food to prevent excessive weight gain

After excluding 32 KC survey dogs that died at <3.50 years of age, Kaplan-Meier analysis revealed significant differences in median survival time (MST) ($P<0.00001$) with the study group living longer than each of the other groups.

In spite of the limitation of using historical control groups, this study shows that the study group lived significantly longer than previously published Labradors. The reason is unclear but it may be that life-long maintenance of lean body mass and attenuated accumulation of body fat are key factors in achieving a longer lifespan. These Labradors had a combination of a high quality plane of nutrition with appropriate husbandry and healthcare and a greater than expected proportion of Labrador retrievers living well beyond that of the expected breed lifespan. Further work will include Cox proportional hazards regression analysis to identify factors associated with longevity, including gender, neuter status and age at neutering, as well as to include data from other published studies.

Group	N	Descriptive statistics		Kaplan-Meier analysis	
		Median age	(Min–Max)	MST*	(95% CI)
1. Longevity study	39	14.01	(9.68–17.90)	14.01	(13.18–14.77)
2. KC survey	574	12.25	(0.17–19.00)	12.58*	(12.17–12.92)
3. 'Restricted'	24	13.09	(4.30–14.56)	13.00*	(12.38–13.50)
4. 'Control'	24	11.16	(3.50–13.29)	11.14	(10.80–11.99)

*Overall $P<0.0001$; all pairs significantly different (≤ 0.004) from one another other than $\times$ ($P=0.5$)

Prevalence and clinical significance of ESBL/AmpC producing Enterobacteriaceae from companion animals, N-W England

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Multidrug resistant (MDR) *Escherichia coli* and other *Enterobacteriaceae* are known to be emerging in companion animals. Particularly concerning is the production of

extended-spectrum beta-lactamases (ESBL) and/or AmpC beta-lactamases, which give resistance to all clinical relevant extended-spectrum cephalosporins. Furthermore, the lack of specific guidelines regarding the management of ESBL/AmpC animal infections, leads to an important dilemma faced by the veterinary microbiologist on how to correctly advise clinicians on their clinical significance and therefore when is appropriate to treat these isolates. Although ESBL/AmpC producing *E. coli* can be associated with disease, some animals may only be colonised but not infected with these organisms and it is critical to identify these cases in order to avoid unnecessary use of antimicrobials in only colonised patients.

ESBL and AmpC beta-lactamase producing *E. coli* are routinely found in clinical specimens submitted to our Microbiology Diagnostic laboratory and their prevalence seems to be increasing. Six hundred and seventeen *Enterobacteriaceae* ($n=617$) were obtained from companion animal