11 years (range 6–14 years). Breeds included Labrador (6), Golden Retriever (3), Cocker Spaniel (2) and one Irish Setter, Miniature Schnauzer, Brittany Spaniel, Border Terrier, Weimaraner, Border Collie and Staffordshire Bull Terrier, with 3 cross breeds. Eighteen tumors were oral (lip (8), gingiva (3), mandible (2), cheek (2), tongue (1) and not specified (2)), one ocular, one cutaneous and one perianal tumour. According to the WHO classification, seven dogs had stage 1 disease, ten were stage 2 and three were stage 3 (one unknown). Immediate adverse reactions were not reported.

At data collection eight dogs were alive, seven had died of melanoma-related causes, two of unrelated disease and three of unknown cause (one lost follow-up). Ten dogs received courses of four vaccines, one dog received three vaccines

only. Seven dogs received one follow-up vaccine after 6 months, two dogs two and one dog four six monthly vaccines.

The overall MST of all 19 dogs treated with surgery and follow-up vaccination was 485 days. One year survival was 86% for stage 1, 55% for stage 2 and 0% for stage 3. The MST was 692 days for stage 1, 493 days for stage 2 and 205 days for stage 3 disease.

CONCLUSION

These results suggest a moderate benefit to treating dogs with malignant melanoma with the Oncept® melanoma vaccine following surgery compared to previously reported MSTs for surgery or radiotherapy alone.

Identifying key proteoglycans between two dog breeds with a differing predisposition to cranial cruciate ligament rupture

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Cranial cruciate ligament disease (CCLD) and rupture is one of the most common orthopaedic conditions to affect dogs leading to stifle joint osteoarthritis. CCLD usually with ligament rupture occurs following a minor or non-contact injury. CCLD. Epidemiological studies have shown that certain dog breeds are at different risk to CCLD with the Labrador retriever and Rottweiler having a high risk, the Staffordshire bull terrier a moderate risk, and the greyhound a low risk to ligament rupture. Changes in cranial cruciate ligament (CCL) extracellular matrix molecules such as collagen fibril diameter and glycosaminoglycans content have been identified in dog breeds with a high risk of CCLD. Proteoglycans (PGs) are macromolecules consisting of a glycosaminoglycan chain and core protein. Small leucine rich proteoglycans (SLRPs) are an important family which regulate collagen

fibrillogenesis. Decorin, biglycan and fibromodulin are all members of the SLRP family. Aggrecan, on the other hand, is a member of the large aggregating PGs that functions to withstand compressive forces. Our aim was to measure the protein content and gene expression of PGs with western blot analysis, immunohistochemistry, and quantitative RT-PCR to identify differences in PGs and their metabolites between breeds that are at a moderate (Staffordshire bull terrier) and low (Greyhound) in risk to CCLD. We hypothesise that PGs are key components of the CCL extracellular matrix and therefore may play a role in CCLD. CCLs were obtained from both Staffordshire bull terrier (n=5) and Greyhounds (n=5) euthanised for purposes not related to this study and all dogs had grossly normal CCLs and stifle joints. Gene expression showed aggrecan (p=0.0003) and fibromodulin (p=0.03) to be significantly higher in Staffordshire bull terrier CCLs compared to those of Greyhound, whilst decorin (p=0.03) and ADAMTS4 (p=0.04) (PG metabolite) were significantly higher in greyhound CCLs compared to those of Staffordshire bull terriers, and protein expression by Western blotting has supported these findings. The role of aggrecan and fibromodulin in Staffordshire bull terrier might be due to increased compression in CCL eventually leading to pathology and rupture. Decorin may have a role in maintaining collagen fibril size and strength in greyhound, and ADAMTS4 indicates a higher metabolism of its CCLs resulting in protection against degeneration. Our findings indicate that PGs play different roles in the normal homeostasis of the canine CCL in dogs with a different susceptibility to CCLD.

Is it worth the risk? The attitudes of owners and veterinary professionals to the use of non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) in dogs with osteoarthritis

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Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) are commonly used in the treatment of canine osteoarthritis. Whilst extensive research has been performed assessing their efficacy and safety, concerns remain about the risks associated with administering NSAIDs to older animals. The attitudes of veterinary surgeons and owners to using NSAIDs in an older population of dogs have not previously been reported. The aim of this study was to characterise the attitudes towards, and use of, NSAIDs in dogs with osteoarthritis by veterinary surgeons, veterinary nurses and owners in England and Scotland.

During 2014, data were gathered through semi-structured interviews with owners of dogs with osteoarthritis and focus groups with veterinary professionals (veterinary sur-

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On: Wed, 26 Apr 2023 14:50:41