musculoskeletal problem (n=151; 68.3%) while fewer involved a new problem (n=70; 31.7%). A musculoskeletal problem was the primary reason for presentation in 117 (52.9%) cases and an additional problem discussed in 104 (47.1%) cases. The owner raised the musculoskeletal problem in 127 (57.5%) cases while the veterinary surgeon raised the problem in the remaining 94 (42.5%) cases. The most common clinical signs noted were lameness (n=79; 35.7%), stiffness (n=36; 16.3%) and pain (n=16; 7.2%). The most common diagnoses were osteoarthritis (n=106; 48.0%), soft tissue injury (n=30; 13.6%) and cranial cruciate ligament rupture (n=28; 12.7%). Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (n=120; 54.3%), controlled exercise (n=65; 29.4%) and nutraceuticals (n=45; 20.4%) were the most common methods used to treat or manage

these musculoskeletal problems.

The results provide insight into the types of canine musculoskeletal problems seen in first opinion practice and may have implications for veterinary education, practice and research. The findings suggest these problems are often chronic and painful and so are likely to be important from an animal welfare perspective. Musculoskeletal problems were often an additional problem discussed and were frequently raised by the veterinary surgeon, highlighting the role of the practitioner in ensuring these problems are adequately detected and managed. Comparison of the results with existing literature could be used to identify knowledge gaps in the evidence base and pinpoint focused, relevant topics for future research on musculoskeletal problems.

Construct validity and internal consistency for three quality of life questionnaires for cats with chronic musculoskeletal pain

Sarah Stadig, Inger Sundqvist, Anna Bergh

Department of Clinical Sciences, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Uppsala, Sweden

INTRODUCTION AND AIM

Behavioral and lifestyle changes are the most common symptoms of chronic pain caused by musculoskeletal disease in cats. Owner questionnaires are an important tool in order to identify these cats. The aim of the present study was to establish the construct validity and the internal consistency for three quality of life (QoL) questionnaires in sound, pain free cats and in cats with chronic pain due to musculoskeletal disease. The hypothesis for testing the construct validity was that the questionnaires could distinguish between the cats with chronic pain and the pain free ones. The hypothesis for testing the internal consistency was that analyzing Cronbach's alpha would indicate good internal consistency ($\alpha > 0$).

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The health status of 69 cats was examined with a veterinary

orthopedic examination and registrations on a pressure sensitive mat system (Walkway™ System High Resolution HRV4). Cats with painful joints had the affected joints radiographed. Of the three QoL questionnaires, the Swedish QoL questionnaire was used in 58 healthy cats and in 11 cats with musculoskeletal disease. The QoL questionnaire by Bennett and Morton and the questionnaire by Zamprogno *et al.* were used in 28 healthy cats and in 11 cats with musculoskeletal disease. Construct validity was tested by use of Wilcoxon signed rank test ($p < 0.05$) and the internal consistency was evaluated by calculating Cronbach's α .

RESULTS

There was a significant difference between pain free cats and cats with chronic pain, in the results from the QoL questionnaires. This confirms the hypothesis that the three questionnaires have good construct validity, in that they can distinguish between cats with chronic pain and pain free ones. Cronbach's α was > 0.7 for all three QoL questionnaires which confirms the hypothesis that they have good internal consistency.

CONCLUSION

The three QoL questionnaires have good construct validity and internal consistency. Further studies are needed to confirm the results and add to the process of validating QoL questionnaires for cats with chronic pain due to musculoskeletal disease.

Outcome following surgical stabilisation of tarsocrural instability in dogs

Lee Beever, Elvin Kulendra, Richard Meeson

Royal Veterinary College, London, UK

OBJECTIVE

To evaluate the outcome and complications following surgical stabilisation of canine tarsocrural luxation/subluxations.

METHODS

Medical records of dogs with tarsocrural joint instability treated at the Royal Veterinary College from 2007-2014 were reviewed. Complications were divided into **minor** (no additional surgical treatment), or **major** (additional surgical treatment). Data were tested for normality and groups compared using Mann-Whitney or Fishers-exact test. $P < 0.05$ was considered significant.

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