Oral presentations

A study of vaccination practices amongst UK Rottweiler owners

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OBJECTIVES

Background

Rottweilers are anecdotally reported to have a higher susceptibility to parvovirus. Whilst this may be true, there is limited evidence to support this.

Objectives

To survey Rottweiler owner's attitudes and practices around vaccination.

METHODS

A survey was constructed to understand factors influencing owner decision-making around vaccination.

This was piloted and subsequently provided to owners of UK Rottweilers via social media.

RESULTS

Data were provided by 624 owners on 1214 Rottweilers and 528 non-Rottweilers. Of those, 4% reported not vaccinating at all. Reasons included 'over-vaccination' being detrimental to health. There were 32% of respondents who reported their Rottweiler as unwell after vaccination, which invariably resolved within 1–2 days. Only 60% of respondents followed their vet's recommendations and vaccinated their Rottweilers after the initial puppy course; 89% used the same strategy to vaccinate their non-Rottweiler dogs. Titre testing was used by 17% of respondents to determine whether vaccination was required; only 3% reported their vet as recommending these. Non-veterinary alternatives to vaccination were used by 11% of respondents. Of the 193 Rottweiler breeders, 23% did not recommend vaccination to new owners, 27% of these instead recommended titre testing.

STATEMENT (CONCLUSIONS)

These results highlight the potential influence of vaccination practices on the subsequent development of parvovirus in UK Rottweilers. A significant proportion of owners do not vaccinate their Rottweilers after the puppy course. Future studies looking into vaccination history in Rottweilers having suffered from parvovirus will begin to unravel any perceived susceptibility.

Case report: do dogs in hot cars always die?

Max Foreman

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OBJECTIVES

A dog presented as an emergency with collapse, haemorrhagic diarrhoea and hypothermia. After initial stabilisation, further investigations suggested a more sinister aetiology, with evidence to suggest a heat stroke (based on the finding of Botryoid nuclei).

Throughout the course of the hospitalisation, the dog developed multiple negative prognostic indicators including hypoglycaemia, elevated creatinine at 24 hours, delayed admission to hospital of >90 minutes and thrombocytopenia.

METHODS

Blood and urinalysis, electrolyte monitoring, abdominal ultrasound were all used throughout the period of hospitalisation.

RESULTS

The dog was seen back for a recheck 1 week following discharge, at which point a repeat haematology and biochemistry profile was run. The owner reported that the dog was completely back to normal, having improved day-by-day at home. No PUPD was noted, and appetite was good. The diarrhoea had resolved fully.

Haematology was unremarkable. On biochemistry, the azotaemia was completely resolved and the phosphorus back within the normal range. Unfortunately no urine sample was obtained. All antibiotic courses were finished, and the renal diet was discontinued.

STATEMENT (CONCLUSIONS)

Heat stroke in dogs carries a very guarded prognosis, with a documented mortality rate of 50%. Risk factors for death include hypoglycaemia, elevated creatinine at 24 hours, delayed admission to hospital of >90 minutes, obesity and seizures. While this case had many of these risk factors, close monitoring and prompt therapeutic action enabled a successful outcome.