Preventative health care plans reported by a cohort of puppy owners

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OBJECTIVES

To describe intentions of a cohort of puppy owners, towards preventative health care plans for their dogs as puppies and as adult dogs.

METHODS

Puppy owners living in the UK recruited to a cohort study ('Generation Pup') completed an online questionnaire about their puppy at study registration, when puppies were aged <16 weeks. Owners stated whether they

intended to vaccinate, treat for fleas and treat for worms when their dogs were puppies and/or when they were adult dogs.

Chi-squared tests were used to test for associations between three preventative health care plans reported by owners (intention to vaccinate, treatment for fleas, treatment for worms) and age category of dog (puppy/adult).

RESULTS

Almost all (94.2%) owners of 565 puppies reported that they planned to vaccinate their dogs as puppies; however, significantly fewer (79.8%, $P<0.001$) planned to vaccinate when their puppies became adult dogs. Similarly, owners were less likely ($P=0.004$) to plan to worm their dogs as adults (89.4%) rather than as puppies (94.2%). In contrast, the proportion of owners planning to treat for fleas was not significantly different ($P=0.33$) when plans for puppies (88.0%) and adult dogs (86.0%) were compared.

STATEMENT (CONCLUSIONS)

Despite potential bias within this cohort towards very motivated dog owners, even within this sample, less importance was placed by puppy owners on plans for some aspects of preventative health care for adult dogs than for puppies. Small animal primary care practices should emphasise to puppy owners the importance of maintaining preventative health care for adult dogs.

Observations on the hepatojugular reflux technique in healthy dogs

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OBJECTIVES

The hepatojugular reflux test (HJR) can help differentiate cardiac from hepatic pathology in dogs with ascites. This study evaluated two techniques for the HJR in healthy dogs, when performed by experienced and inexperienced observers.

METHODS

Both techniques were performed three times in nine healthy dogs by a single experienced observer and one of four inexperienced observers. For technique A, pressure

was applied by pressing on the abdomen immediately caudal to the ribs in a cranial direction. For technique B, pressure was applied over the mid-abdomen. The test was considered positive if jugular distension was present after 15 or 30 seconds. Presence/absence of normal physiological responses including temporary (<15 seconds) jugular distension secondary to cardiovascular compensation and/or increased jugular pulsations were recorded.

RESULTS

All dogs were negative for HJR using technique A. Using technique B (inexperienced observer), all dogs were negative for HJR. Using technique B (experienced observer), one dog was positive after 30 seconds on two tests and two dogs had temporary jugular distension. During both techniques, increased jugular pulsations were noted in six dogs by the experienced observer and in one dog by the inexperienced observer, all <1/3 the height of the neck. Both techniques were well tolerated in all dogs.

STATEMENT (CONCLUSIONS)

Healthy dogs are normally negative for HJR with both techniques. An experienced observer may be more likely to identify temporary jugular distension or jugular pulsations, but further work is required to determine the sensitivity and specificity of these techniques.