STATEMENT (CONCLUSIONS)

Worsening of clinical signs is commonly reported in dogs treated for *A. vasorum* infection, regardless of whether single or combination anthelmintic protocols are used.

Although we cannot establish cause based upon this data, this is hypothesized to be attributable to parasite death.

Prevalence of transfusion transmissible vector-borne pathogens in UK/Eire canine blood donors

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OBJECTIVES

Pet Blood Bank canine donors are selected and screened to minimise transmission of vector-borne pathogens (VBPs). Recent relaxations in pet travel scheme rules and reports of VBPs in non-travelled UK dogs suggest that the prevalence of VBPs in blood donors could increase. Our aim was to assess the current VBP prevalence in donors to inform whether the current testing protocol (1% of donor units) is appropriate.

METHODS

Surplus EDTA-blood samples from all blood units collected over a one-month period from Pet Blood Bank canine donors were tested for VBPs. Samples underwent DNA extraction and subsequent PCR for *Babesia* spp., *Ehrlichia/Anaplasma* spp., *Leishmania* spp., canine haemoplasmas ('*Candidatus Mycoplasma haematoparvum*' and *Mycoplasma haemocanis*), and glyceraldehyde-3-phosphate dehydrogenase as an internal amplification control (IAC). Information on history, signalment, location, PCV/total solids, temperature, travel history and flea/tick preventative treatment was recorded. Signed owner consent had been obtained.

RESULTS

In total 290 blood samples from 290 dogs were tested. No VBP DNA was detected in any sample; the IAC was appropriately positive in all samples. No dogs had a history of travel outside of the UK/Eire. For the 287 dogs for which this information was available, 269 (93.7%) were not in contact with imported/recently travelled dogs and 243 (84.7%) were receiving flea/tick preventative treatment.

STATEMENT (CONCLUSIONS)

No VBP DNA was found in the 290 canine blood donors sampled. Current selection and screening protocols in UK/Eire canine blood donors appear to be appropriate for the minimal risk of VBP transmission.

Preliminary findings of a survey of UK small animal general practitioners to describe antibiotic use

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OBJECTIVES

To describe antibiotic prescribing in 15 common first opinion clinical presentations of cats and dogs and compare the findings against current published guidelines.

METHODS

A questionnaire was distributed to primary care veterinarians attending CPD events. 42 vets completed the questionnaire. Vets were asked if their practice has an antimicrobial prescribing policy and were asked questions relating to their empirical antibiotic choices in 15 common clinical presentations covering the integumentary, urinary, gastrointestinal and respiratory systems. Questions included: if antibiotics would be prescribed, the antibiotic chosen, and course length prescribed. Data was analysed using excel to determine counts and proportions of responses with respect to each clinical scenario and to calculate modal responses.

RESULTS

Preliminary findings show that empirical antibiotics were chosen in 22% of instances for clinical presentations in which they are not indicated according to