Oral presentations

published guidelines. In those presentations where empirical antibiotics are indicated, 78% of vets made appropriate antibiotic choices. There was considerable variation in course length prescribed across all conditions, but was particularly marked for presentations involving the skin and respiratory system. Amoxicillin-clavulanate was by far the most commonly chosen antibiotic across all conditions, accounting for 45% of all choices. Practice prescribing policies were available in 30% of practices. BSAVA PROTECT guidelines were

the most commonly named resource for compiling practice policies.

STATEMENT (CONCLUSIONS)

Responsible antibiotic use is of paramount importance with current concerns surrounding antibiotic resistance. Increasing the size of the preliminary study to assess how responses vary with demographics could help to target educational material to improve awareness.

Prevalence of feline retroviruses and haemoplasmas in cats in Austria and first detection of *Hepatozoon felis* infection

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OBJECTIVES

To determine the prevalence of retroviruses and haemoplasmas, and haemoplasma risk factors, in cats in Austria.

METHODS

DNA extracted from blood samples of 940 cats underwent quantitative PCRs (qPCRs) for *Mycoplasma haemofelis*, '*Candidatus* Mycoplasma haemominutum', '*Candidatus* Mycoplasma turicensis' and feline leukaemia virus (FeLV). Three samples were excluded after failing an internal control qPCR. Feline immunodeficiency virus (FIV) antibodies and FeLV p27 antigen were analysed in 647 of the cats. The FIV seropositive cats underwent FIV qPCR screening and 94 of the cats underwent *Hepatozoon* spp. PCR. Multivariable analysis was used to identify risk factors for haemoplasma infection.

RESULTS

Haemoplasmas were detected in 111/937 cats (11.8%); 11 (1.2%) cats with *M. haemofelis*, 104 (11.1%) with '*Ca. M. haemominutum*' and three (0.3%) with '*Ca. M. turicensis*'; six cats were infected with multiple species. Of the 937 cats, 29 (3.1%) were FeLV provirus positive. Of the 647 cats, four (0.6%) were FeLV seropositive and 28 (4.3%) FIV seropositive. Clade B FIV was amplified by qPCR in 5/28 FIV seropositive cats. *Hepatozoon felis* was found in one of the 94 screened cats. Outdoor access ($p < 0.001$), FIV seropositivity ($p = 0.007$) and male gender ($p = 0.039$) were associated with haemoplasma infection.

STATEMENT (CONCLUSIONS)

This represents the first report of *H. felis* infection in Austria and concurs with previous reported risk factors for haemoplasma infection. FeLV seroprevalence was low. Only five of the FIV seropositive results were confirmed by qPCR, highlighting ongoing diagnostic challenges.