Oral presentations

during 2013. Case definitions were derived from the International Veterinary Epilepsy Task Force. Multivariable logistic regression modelling evaluated associations with purebred, breed, adult bodyweight, age, sex, neuter, insurance and colour.

RESULTS

From 285,547 cats, there were 458 confirmed RSD cases: prevalence 0.16% (95% CI 0.15–0.18). Of these, 114 (24.89%) were recorded with epilepsy: prevalence 0.04% (95% CI 0.03–0.5). The median age for RSD cases (8.9 years, IQR: 3.5–14.2) was older than epilepsy cases (6.4 years, IQR: 3.5–11.3). Age and insurance were the only factors associated with RSD. RSD odds rose

progressively with aging. Compared with cats aged <3.0 years, cats aged 9.0 to <12.0 years had 2.23 odds ratio [OR] (95% CI 1.62–3.07, $P<0.001$) and cats aged >15.0 years had 4.27 OR (95% CI 3.21–5.69, $P<0.001$). Insured cats had 1.49 OR (95% CI 1.09–2.04, $P=0.012$) compared with uninsured cats.

STATEMENT (CONCLUSIONS)

This is the largest study to date on RSD in cats and identified no breed predispositions. RSD is a disorder of aging in cats. These findings highlight the differences between RSD in cats and dogs and evokes the question: Is epilepsy more species-specific in companion animals than currently understood?

Neurological signs, MRI findings, and outcome in dogs with multiple myeloma

Sophie Wyatt¹, Luisa De Risio², Colin Driver³, Roberto Jose-Lopez⁴, Elsa Beltran¹

- 1 Royal Veterinary College, London, United Kingdom
- 2 Animal Health Trust, Newmarket, United Kingdom
- 3 Fitzpatrick Referrals, Easing, United Kingdom
- 4 University of Glasgow, Glasgow, United Kingdom

OBJECTIVES

The study objective was to retrospectively evaluate clinical, neurological and MRI findings in dogs diagnosed multiple myeloma when presented for spinal pain and/or other neurological signs.

METHODS

The study is based on a retrospective case series design. Electronic records of four UK referral hospitals were reviewed. Dogs were included on the basis they had a confirmed diagnosis of multiple myeloma, had presented

for spinal pain with or without other neurological signs, and had undergone MR imaging of the vertebral column. Short term follow-up information was obtained from medical records at participating referral institutions two weeks after initial presentation. Long term follow-up information was obtained through access to patient medical records held at referral institutions and referring veterinary practices. The study was granted ethical approval by the regulatory bodies at the study institution.

RESULTS

Twelve dogs were included in the final study; the majority had a chronic progressive history, and spinal pain was a feature in all dogs, along with varying degrees of ataxia and paresis. MR imaging revealed polyostotic vertebral lesions with areas of bone lysis and new bone formation causing a variable degree of spinal cord compression. In one dog, vertebral lesions were associated with pathological fracture. Three dogs were euthanised at the time of diagnosis. Remaining dogs ($n=9$) were treated with a melphalan and prednisolone chemotherapeutic protocol, and all survived to short-term follow-up. Median survival time with treatment was 184 days (range 14–701).

STATEMENT (CONCLUSIONS)

Despite significant bone lesions and spinal cord compression, multiple myeloma is associated with a reasonable outcome.

What's up with sausage dogs: health of Miniature Dachshunds in UK primary practice

Rachel Ball, Dave C Brodbelt, David B Church, Dan G O'Neill

RVC, Hertfordshire, United Kingdom

OBJECTIVES

Miniature Dachshunds are a chondrodystrophic breed. Referral studies have reported over-representation specifically for intervertebral disc disease. However, little is known about general disease prevalence in the wider

population. This study aimed to report demography, mortality and common disorders in Miniature Dachshunds attending UK primary-care practices.

METHODS

Anonymised clinical records from the VetCompass Programme were used to extract demographic, disorder and mortality data on Miniature Dachshunds under veterinary care in the UK during 2013.

RESULTS

The study included 2770 Miniature Dachshunds (0.6% of all dogs). The median age was 3.7 years (IQR 1.6–6.8). The median adult bodyweight of females (6.1 kg, IQR 5.2–7.3) was smaller than males (7.1 kg, IQR 6.0–8.4). The most common specific disorders recorded were periodontal disease (14.2%, 95% CI 12.9–15.5), overgrown

nails (8.9%, 95% CI 7.9–10.0), overweight/obesity (6.3%, 95% CI 5.4–7.3), anal sac impaction (5.5%, 95% CI 4.7–6.4) and otitis externa (3.1%, 95% CI 2.5–3.8).

There were 180 deaths during the study. Median longevity of males (10.6 years, IQR 4.7–13.8) was shorter than females (11.9 years, IQR 7.5–15.0). The most common disorder groups to cause death were spinal cord disorders (13.9%, 95% CI 11.7–24.9) and vertebral disorders (8.9%, 95% CI 6.6–17.7).

STATEMENT (CONCLUSIONS)

The prevalence of the most common disorders in Miniature Dachshunds is similar to results for dogs overall. Despite not being among the most common of disorders in Miniature Dachshunds, a high mortality rate from spinal disease highlights the importance of gathering severity as well as prevalence data to optimise our understanding of disorder prioritisation within breeds.

Clinical presentation and medical management of German Shepherd dogs with presumed degenerative lumbosacral stenosis in first opinion practice in the UK

Georgina Harris¹, Dan O'Neill²,
Tim Williams¹, Steven De Decker²

1 Cambridge University, Cambridge, United Kingdom

2 The Royal Veterinary College, London, United Kingdom

OBJECTIVES

German Shepherd Dogs (GSDs) are predisposed to degenerative lumbosacral stenosis (DLSS). Previous research evaluating a referral caseload showed that 55% of dogs improved after medical management. This finding may however be poorly generalisable to the primary-care setting. This study aimed to describe clinical

management and outcomes for GSDs with presumed DLSS managed in first-opinion practice and risk factors associated with clinical improvement.

METHODS

The study included 66 GSDs with presumed DLSS from the VetCompass database of first opinion practice clinical records in the UK. Risk factor analysis used univariable logistic regression modelling.

RESULTS

Of 66 GSDs identified, 53% (35) were female, and 50% (33) were neutered. The median age at first diagnosis was 8.2 (IQR 6.3–10.1) years. Analgesia was given to 92% (61) and exercise restriction was advised in 21% (14). 12% (8) dogs were referred for advanced clinical management, of which 2 underwent surgical management. Excluding the 8 referred dogs, improvement was noted in 78% (45) of cases that received only primary-care management. There was a tendency towards reducing improvement with increasing age (odds ratio of improvement OR 0.76 per year of age, $p=0.068$). Of 25 dogs that died during the study, 44% (11) were euthanized due to factors related to presumed DLSS.

STATEMENT (CONCLUSIONS)

This study reports a higher proportional improvement in first opinion compared with referral caseloads (78% versus 55% respectively). This may reflect referral bias whereby more severe cases are referred and suggests that referral research results poorly generalise to the wider population.