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

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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.