the digits. Gait examination and carpal extension revealed a good range of motion and weight-bearing. However, contracture of the digital flexor tendons resulted in knuckling over of the digits of the right manus during walking. Elective tenotomy of the deep digital flexors II–V were performed via a lateral approach. The dog made an uneventful recovery. 2 weeks after surgery repeat gait analysis revealed improvement. Since then, the patient has continued to

make steady progress and has begun to use the limb normally once again.

STATEMENT (CONCLUSIONS)

Approximately 20% of patients suffering ischaemic myelopathy will be left with significant deficits. In the case presented, tenotomy of the digital tendons greatly improved limb function.

Outcome of spinal stabilisation in Pugs with caudal articular process dysplasia

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OBJECTIVES

Chronic progressive thoracolumbar myelopathies are often caused by caudal articular process malformation in Pugs, causing neurologic dysfunction of the pelvic limbs. This disease may be associated with intervertebral disc protrusion or arachnoid webs/diverticulum at the same level. Urinary or faecal incontinence may also be present. Previous studies have shown the persistence or the deterioration of the neurological status, despite laminectomy with or without stabilisation. We hypothesised that chronic instability of the vertebral column causes the neurological decline in these dogs and that spinal stabilisation may halt or ameliorate the clinical signs.

METHODS

Clinical records between 2013 and 2017 were retrospectively reviewed for Pugs diagnosed with caudal articular process dysplasia and showing thoracolumbar myelopathy. Diagnosis was confirmed via computed tomography and magnetic resonance imaging. Fifteen dogs met the criteria for inclusion in this study.

RESULTS

Median age of presentation was 8.5 years. Median follow-up was 4 months. All dogs showed paraparesis and pelvic limb ataxia. Urinary or faecal incontinence was present in 7/15 (47%) of dogs. Caudal articular process dysplasia was localised between T8–L2 vertebrae. Thirteen cases showed the presence of arachnoid webs or diverticulum. Two of those cases had previous laminectomy, durotomy and marsupialisation, but they continued to deteriorate. Fourteen dogs had vertebral stabilisation [laminectomy, marsupialisation and stabilisation (7), stabilisation (4), laminectomy, corpectomy and stabilisation (3)] and improved neurologically. One dog that had laminectomy and corpectomy continued to deteriorate.

STATEMENT

Conclusions – This study indicates the importance of diagnosing caudal articular process dysplasia and supports the use of spinal stabilisation in surgical planning.

How common is common? Estimated prevalence of recurrent seizures disorders in cats under primary veterinary care in the UK

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OBJECTIVES

Recurrent seizure disorders [RSDs] are cited as the most common chronic neurological presentation in cats but little is truly known about prevalence. This study reports prevalence, signalment and risk factors for RSDs in cats in the UK.

METHODS

The VetCompass database of primary-care veterinary clinical data was interrogated to identify RSD cases