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

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

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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

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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