Nasal foreign bodies identified by rhinoscopy in dogs: a retrospective study of 21 cases

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OBJECTIVES

This study aimed to evaluate signalment, clinical presentation, location and nature of nasal foreign bodies identified by rhinoscopy in dogs.

METHODS

A retrospective study was performed using reports from dogs with an established diagnosis of nasal foreign body identified by rhinoscopy and presented on clinics between April 2012 and October 2017.

Data was analysed with descriptive and analytical statistics ($p < 0.05$).

RESULTS

21 dogs were enrolled. Pure breeds accounted for 81.0% of cases (17/21). Males were overrepresented (61.9%–13/21), but there was no statistically significant difference concerning gender ($p = 0.383$). The mean age of presentation was 5.7 years (± 3.9), and the mean weight was 25.1 kg (± 11.3). Dogs weighting more than 10 kg were statistically more prevalent ($p = 0.001$). Sneezing was present in 85.7% of cases (18/21), epistaxis in 47.6% (10/21) and nasal discharge in 28.6% (6/21). Rhinoscopy enabled foreign body diagnosis and removal in all the cases. The foreign body was extracted from the right nasal cavity in 57.1% (12/21) of cases and from the left one in 38.1% (8/21). One dog presented two foreign bodies, one in each nasal cavity (4.8%–1/21). There was no statistically significant difference concerning location ($p = 0.263$). Regarding foreign body nature, 17/21 (81.0%) were vegetal, 3/17 (14.3%) mineral and one (4.8%) an artificial tissue.

STATEMENT (CONCLUSIONS)

In this study, nasal foreign bodies were more common in dogs heavier than 10 kg and sneezing was the most frequent clinical sign. Rhinoscopy seems to be highly effective on diagnosis and management of nasal foreign bodies in dogs.

Use of thoracic ultrasound and radiographs in dyspneic dogs and cats – diagnostic approach and level of confidence between general practitioners, advanced practitioners and final year vet students

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OBJECTIVES

Objective: This study aimed to assess the difference in diagnostic approach towards dyspneic dogs and cats between general practitioners (GP), advanced practitioners (AP) and final year vet students (FYVS) in the United Kingdom, with a focus on the use of thoracic ultrasound (TUS). Their level of confidence (LOC) with TUS was also assessed.

METHODS

Methods: This study was a questionnaire-based survey with each cohort receiving a specific questionnaire based on whether they were a GP, AP or FYVS. Participants were asked to respond questions regarding the use of TUS and radiographs and their LOC with each approach.

RESULTS

Results: 130 GP, 46 AP and 59 FYVS participated in the study. Approximately 70% of FYVS, 50% of GP and 12% of AP were not familiar with the use of TUS. While 70% of GP routinely performed radiographs first on a dyspneic patient, less than 20% of AP used this as a first line approach. 65% of GP and 22% of AP did not use or were not confident with TUS. Over 55% of AP did not

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recommend radiographs for the initial management of a dyspneic patient, while over 75% of AP recommended the use of TUS. 90% of FYVS would choose radiographs as a first line approach for a dyspneic patient and would be more confident interpreting radiographs than TUS (63% vs 13%).

STATEMENT (CONCLUSIONS)

Impact: This study shows that while AP recommend and are more confident with TUS, GP and FYVS lack confidence and prefer radiographs as a first line approach for dyspneic patients.