prescriptions. One respondent elected not to give the medication. Only 55% of clients reported being shown how to administer the medication, and if they were shown, 75% reported being shown by their vet. Finally, 83% of clients reported no discussion of their personal situation to assess the suitability of the treatment schedule.

STATEMENT (CONCLUSIONS)

Despite the small sample size, this study highlights significant issues in the communication of medicine administration which could affect adherence and subsequently patient outcomes. A larger study is needed to evaluate the scale of the problem.

Factors that affect intended adoption of reward-based training reported by a cohort of puppy owners

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OBJECTIVES

Almost all dog owners use reward-based training methods, but some additionally use aversive methods (e.g. physical reprimands, sound/spray distractions). Our objective was to identify factors associated with intended use of training approaches that used only reward-based methods.

METHODS

A nested case-control study was conducted on a sample of owners of puppies <16 weeks of age, living in the UK

and Republic of Ireland recruited to a longitudinal study. For owners with >1 study dog, one dog was randomly selected for analysis.

Associations between intended training methods (reward-based methods only/training that included >1 aversive method) and potential risk factors (previous dog ownership, owning ≥1 other dog(s), dog-related employment [e.g. dog trainer, rehoming centre] and intentions for the dog) were tested using Chi-square ($\alpha \leq 0.05$).

RESULTS

Of 819 owners, 256 (31.3%) intended to use only reward-based methods. Owners who worked with dogs were three times more likely to report intention to use reward-based methods only, compared with owners without such employment (OR = 2.87, 95%CI = 1.79–4.60, $P < 0.001$). Compared with owners who did not own another dog, owners with ≥1 other dog(s) were more likely to report intentions for training based only on reward-based methods (OR = 1.60, 95%CI = 1.19–2.16, $P = 0.002$).

STATEMENT (CONCLUSIONS)

Intention to use a mixture of reward-based/aversive training methods was very common within this cohort, despite existing evidence of the disadvantages of using mixed training approaches. Increased awareness of optimal training approaches for dogs is needed, especially for owners without dog-related employment and without other household dogs.

Opinions of veterinary graduates on the value of an undergraduate veterinary practical class

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OBJECTIVES

It is widely accepted that animal tissue is required for teaching veterinary students various aspects of anatomy and physiology in their undergraduate years. Yet what are the views of veterinary graduates on the use of such practical classes in their education? Here the opinions of veterinary graduates were sought on the value of one practical class during their preclinical training and the justification for that class.

METHODS

Fifty veterinary graduates were surveyed by e-mail asking for their opinions on the value of a preclinical practical class which aimed to demonstrate the effect of different