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

Oral presentations

cardiac drugs. Their text responses were subjected to a thematic analysis and appropriately coded. Respondents were also asked to score their opinion of four statements regarding the educational value and ethical justification of the class on a Likert scale from strongly agree to strongly disagree. A small number of respondents took part in a telephone based semi-structured interview.

RESULTS

All 50 graduates replied to the request for their opinions. The majority (46 of 50) considered that the practical class

was of little educational value and thus not particularly ethically justified. Several respondents noted that a video demonstration and computer-based learning would be more appropriate.

STATEMENT (CONCLUSIONS)

As a result of the survey the practical class was changed to a predominantly video demonstration and computer-based learning session. The study shows the value of appraising student opinion in optimising practical classes in their education.

“Trust me I’m a vet...” Vet-client trust in small animal consultations: a mixed methods approach

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OBJECTIVES

In human medicine, doctor-patient trust is correlated with positive outcomes such as medication adherence and patient satisfaction. The aim of this study is to report the perceptions and assessments of vet and client trust.

METHODS

A convenience sample of vets and clients were invited to participate in focus groups and semi-structured

interviews. Data was transcribed intelligent verbatim, a thematic analysis performed, and themes identified. Subsequently, clients attending six practices for specific health problem appointments were invited to participate in consultation recording and post-consultation surveys assessing vet and client satisfaction, and client trust in the vet.

RESULTS

Qualitative analysis highlighted the importance of trust in the vet-client relationship, leading to easier decision making, especially in high-emotion and uncertain situations. In post consultation surveys, percentage client satisfaction was high (median 88.7%, IQR 15.8), as was percentage trust in the vet (median 100%, IQR 5.5). In addition, client trust was positively correlated with client satisfaction (Spearman’s rho = 0.531, p < 0.005).

STATEMENT (CONCLUSIONS)

This research highlights the mis-match between vet and client perceptions of trust and provides an insight into the importance and complexity of the vet-client relationship. The findings add further support for a relationship-centred approach to small animal consultations and could impact the morale and wellbeing of the veterinary profession.

Owner perceptions of problem behaviours in dogs aged 6 months

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OBJECTIVES

To investigate early recognition of potentially problematic canine behaviours by UK and Republic of Ireland dog owners.

METHODS

Puppy owners taking part in a longitudinal study relating to canine health and behaviour completed online