Oral presentations

previous dog ownership experience. Future research within this longitudinal study will investigate the influence acquisition age has on various health/behaviour

outcomes, with the potential to provide evidence for puppy purchasing recommendations regarding minimum age at acquisition.

Identifying disorders of greatest importance to Staffordshire Bull Terriers under veterinary care

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OBJECTIVES

Staffordshire Bull Terriers (SBT) are a common UK dog breed, but reliable and generalisable health data are limited. This study aimed to report demography, mortality and common disorders in SBTs under first-opinion veterinary care in the UK during 2016, with a special focus on obesity.

METHODS

Signalment, diagnosis and mortality information were extracted from anonymised VetCompass™ clinical records. A cross-sectional analysis was used to report

the 1-year period prevalence of the most commonly diagnosed disorders.

RESULTS

The study included 20,837 (6.19%) SBTs from 336,865 dogs overall. Adult bodyweight of males (median 21.5 kg, IQR 19.1–24.0) was heavier than females (18.6 kg, IQR 16.5–21.0) ($p < 0.001$). Median longevity was 12.0 years (range 0.60–19.82). The most common causes of death were neoplasia ($n = 34$, 16.66%) and mass-associated lesion ($n = 23$, 11.27%).

The most prevalent disorders overall were overgrown nail(s) ($n = 216$, 6.67%, 95% CI: 4.66–7.53), overweight/obesity (176, 5.44%, 95% CI: 4.48–6.02), periodontal disease (170, 5.25%, 95% CI: 4.4–5.92), otitis externa (167, 5.16%, 95% CI: 4.29–5.79) and skin (cutaneous) disorder (163, 5.04%, 95% CI: 4.29–5.79).

Female SBTs had 1.5 times the odds of overweight/obese than males. SBTs aged 10 years and over were over twice as likely to be diagnosed as overweight/obese as dogs aged below 10.

STATEMENT (CONCLUSIONS)

This presentation will discuss the most common disorders of SBTs and explore how this information can be used to prioritise health management in the breed. The results will provide veterinarians with a solid evidence-base when advising owners on clinical and lifestyle decisions for their SBT.

What factors influence the development and outcome of Gastric dilatation and volvulus (GD/GDV) in Greyhounds?

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OBJECTIVES

Greyhounds appear anecdotally to be at an increased risk of developing GD/GDV. Little specific research has been conducted into particular factors influencing the onset of GD/GDV in the breed. This study aimed to identify epidemiological characteristics that influence the development and outcome of GD/GDV in Greyhounds.

METHODS

A survey containing multiple choice and free text questions was constructed and distributed to Greyhound owners in person and via email. Microsoft Excel was used for descriptive and inferential statistics.

RESULTS

Data was available for 83 Greyhounds, of which 19 suffered from GD/GDV. Significantly, 14 (78%) of the dogs which

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suffered a GD/GDV episode were fed from a height compared with 27 (53%) unaffected dogs ($p = 0.032$). Significantly, a larger proportion of the dogs which suffered from GD/GDV suffered from borborygmi ($p = 0.037$). Seven Greyhound owners reported their dogs undergoing previous abdominal surgery, 6 of these went on to develop GD/GDV ($p = 0.0001$). Six (38%) Greyhounds suffering a GD/GDV had a relative which suffered from the condition compared with 5 (24%) dogs which did not suffer bloat ($p = 0.026$). Twelve (86%) dogs undergoing surgery for the GD/GDV survived and 9 (75%) were subsequently discharged.

STATEMENT (CONCLUSIONS)

This study indicates that feeding from a height, presence of borborygmi, having an affected relative and previous abdominal surgery could be important factors influencing the development of GD/GDV in Greyhounds. This information may be valuable for Greyhound owners attempting to minimise the chances of their dogs developing GD/GDV.

Effect of dog ownership experience on the uptake of preventative health care practices reported by puppy owners

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OBJECTIVES

To summarise preventative health care practices reported by owners of puppies aged ≤ 16 weeks, and to determine whether previous dog ownership affected engagement in preventative health care.

METHODS

Owners who acquired a single puppy at ≤ 11.5 weeks of age and lived in the UK or Republic of Ireland were recruited onto a longitudinal cohort study. Online questionnaires were completed at study registration and when puppies were aged 16 weeks. Chi-squared tests were used to examine associations between previous dog ownership and the use of flea and worm treatment/preventative products, vaccinations and pet insurance, on puppies at or before 16 weeks of age.

RESULTS

Of 1,288 owners, 1,118 (87%) and 1,230 (95%) reported that by 16 weeks of age their puppies had been administered at least one flea product and at least one worming product, respectively; 1,259 (98%) of puppies had been vaccinated at least once and 1,066 (83%) were insured by 16 weeks.

First-time puppy owners were more likely than owners with previous dog ownership experience to use a flea product (OR: 2.63; 95%CI: 1.66–4.16; $P < 0.001$) and have pet insurance (OR: 1.92; 95%CI: 1.33–2.79; $P < 0.001$) by 16 weeks of age, respectively. No differences were found for the use of worming products ($P = 0.3$) nor vaccinations by 16 weeks of age ($P = 0.2$).

STATEMENT (CONCLUSIONS)

Flea product use and pet insurance acquisition were less commonly reported than worming product use and vaccination amongst our cohort subjects. Factors, including previous dog ownership, may influence uptake of preventative health care, suggesting advice could be tailored to different audiences.

Retrospective analysis of Canine Bronchoalveolar Lavage submissions to referral veterinary laboratories in the UK

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OBJECTIVES

The aim of this study was to investigate the prevalence of bacterial respiratory disease in dogs using the results of canine bronchoalveolar lavage (BAL) submissions.