peritonitis but the owner declined further surgery and decided to have the dog euthanized. In the second dog an encapsulated surgical sponge was found adhered to the jejunum. Following release of the adhesions the mass was removed and the dog was discharged 2 days after surgery.

STATEMENT (CONCLUSIONS)

CT is a valuable method for the diagnosis of retained surgical sponges. The retained sponges usually have a characteristic CT appearance resembling granulomas and this may be helpful in preoperative diagnosis and prognosis of them.

Duplex and compressibility ultrasound examination in canine thoracic limb

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OBJECTIVES

To describe Duplex ultrasound (US) and compressibility technique for superficial vascular examination in dogs. To characterize ultrasonographic features of normal canine cephalic vein and compare them with veins of dogs with clinically diagnosed phlebitis and thrombophlebitis.

METHODS

Prospective, descriptive study was performed in dogs presented for radiotherapy at the Hospital for Small Animals. Thirty dogs with no evidence of vascular disease

and 17 dogs with positive Visual Infusion Phlebitis (VIP) score were recruited for the study. All US examinations were performed and interpreted by one observer who was blinded to the clinical score. Cephalic veins were assessed for multiple criteria and Spearman's rank correlation coefficient was calculated between the findings and time the intravenous catheter (IVC) was in place.

RESULTS

Successful and complete US examination was conducted in less than 5 minutes in all dogs. Scanning procedure was well tolerated in all patients. No abnormal US findings were detected in normal dogs group. All dogs with clinical phlebitis showed ultrasonographic changes (15/17 dogs increased wall thickness; 8/17 increased wall echogenicity; 7/17 disturbed Doppler flow; 10/17 incomplete compressibility; 10/17 presence of intraluminal thrombus). No strong correlation was found between the time the IVC was in place and US changes.

STATEMENT (CONCLUSIONS)

Duplex and compressibility ultrasonographic studies are feasible and safe techniques for evaluation of cephalic veins in dogs. Dogs with phlebitis show ultrasonographic changes therefore ultrasound is a diagnostic tool in cases of clinically suspected phlebitis and thrombophlebitis.

Retrospective evaluation of dietary management in glycaemic stabilisation and cataract formation in 152 dogs with diabetes mellitus

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OBJECTIVES

Cataract formation secondary to hyperglycaemia is common in dogs with insulin-dependent diabetes mellitus (IDDM). Dietary management should facilitate stabilisation of hyperglycaemia with insulin and thereby delay or prevent cataract formation. Objectives: Evaluation of effect of dietary management on glycaemic stabilisation and cataract formation in dogs with IDDM.

METHODS

Data for 152 diabetic dogs attending a UK Veterinary Hospital were obtained from clinical records and a questionnaire survey circulated. 100/152 (65.8%) developed cataracts after diagnosis of IDDM.

RESULTS

From point of diagnosis there was no significant difference in the time to stabilisation of glycaemia, in the

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likelihood of cataracts forming or in the time interval from diagnosis to cataract formation irrespective of diet type provided or whether dogs were given treats or not ($p > 0.05$). Stabilisation was quicker in dogs with a high compared to dogs with a low body condition score ($p = 0.0045$).

STATEMENT (CONCLUSIONS)

The type of diet fed, wet or dry, with or without additional treats did not affect stabilisation or cataract formation. As high BCS made glycaemic stabilisation easier screening of middle-age obese dogs to detect IDDM early prior to weight loss due to disease is recommended.

Nutritional standards and diet considerations of owners and their pets: a two-country study

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OBJECTIVES

With over half of the UK canine population overweight and the human population in the UK surpassing the obesity rates of Canada, a two-country study was conducted to understand the reasons for these differences. This study aims to identify the perception of obesity, the human animal bond, and the veterinary consult as areas influencing canine obesity and diet.

METHODS

Both UK and Canadian dog owners were surveyed using a cross-sectional questionnaire study online and a

veterinary practice. Data was analyzed using descriptive statistics, chi square test, and regression, with $p < 0.05$ (calculated probability) indicating significance.

RESULTS

The consult length was significantly longer in Canada (31% were 20–30 mins) compared to the UK (35% was <10 mins) ($p = 5.98 \times 10^{-6}$). Canadian owners were more likely to have a specific nutritional consult with their veterinarian ($p = 0.0003$) facilitated partly by nurses taking histories to allow more opportunity for nutritional and obesity discussions with the veterinarian. More alternative treatments, such as nutritional management ($p = 0.013$) and supplemental management ($p = 0.0063$), were used to treat conditions in the Canadian canine population when compared to the UK. Canadian owners listed their veterinarian as the primary source of nutritional information, whereas UK owners listed the internet.

STATEMENT (CONCLUSIONS)

The awareness and use of veterinary nutrition in prevention and treatment of small animals is greater in Canada compared to the UK. Modifying veterinary consults in the UK, incorporating nutrition as the 5th vital sign and placing an economical value on the nutritional consult could have a positive influence on canine obesity. Barriers to this need studying.

Batch-to-batch variation in the iodine content of complete, wet foods for cats

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OBJECTIVES

Hyperthyroidism is the most common endocrinopathy diagnosed in domestic cats^[1]. Many risk factors have been proposed and development of the disease is likely

multifactorial^[2]. Clinically and histopathologically, feline hyperthyroidism resembles toxic nodular goitre (TNG), a form of human hyperthyroidism caused by excessive dietary iodine intake after a period of iodine deficiency^[3,4]. Thus, fluctuation in dietary iodine intake may also promote development of feline hyperthyroidism. Here, we determined iodine content of cat foods, across multiple batches to test for consistency.

METHODS

Two to five different batches of nine complete-labelled, wet foods for cats were freeze-dried, powdered, sampled in duplicate and microwave-digested using tetramethylammonium hydroxide (TMAH) for analysis of iodine content by inductively-coupled plasma-mass spectrometry (ICP-MS). A certified reference material (Seronorm L2, LGC Standards: iodine = 295 µg/L) was used as a QC.