as conservative, exploratory or requiring thoracotomy. Statistical analyses were performed using Chi-squared and Fisher's Exact Test.

RESULTS

123 dogs met inclusion criteria, (54% first opinion, 46% referral), median age was 48 months and median body-weight was 12.75 kg. Thirty dogs (24%) suffered penetrating wounds, 35 (29%) deep wounds, 44 (36%) full thickness skin wounds and 14 (11%) partial thickness skin wounds. Sixty-nine dogs (56%) suffered wounds elsewhere, most commonly to the cervical region ($n = 22$), abdomen ($n = 21$) and limbs ($n = 21$). Bacterial culture was positive in 50% of cases, frequently polymicrobial, and most commonly revealed *Staphylococcus*, *E.coli*, *Pasteurella* or *Enterococcus* species. The most common

radiographic lesions were pneumothorax ($n = 31$), rib fracture/avulsion ($n = 29$), pulmonary contusions ($n = 23$) and pleural effusion ($n = 13$). These radiographic lesions were all significantly associated with each other, presence of a penetrating wound and decision to perform thoracic exploration. Undergoing thoracic exploration was not significantly associated with mortality, however undergoing exploratory coeliotomy was. The most common cause of death was suspected sepsis/SIRS. The overall mortality rate was 18%.

STATEMENT (CONCLUSIONS)

Clinical application of the presented data may facilitate both specialist and general practitioners' decision regarding management of canine thoracic bite wounds.

Prevalence of pulmonary changes detected using computerised tomography in brachycephalic breeds compared to mesaticephalic breeds

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OBJECTIVES

The aims of this observational, analytical, retrospective study were to (i) obtain computed tomographic (CT) data on pulmonary alterations visible in extreme brachycephalic breeds, and (ii) compare the pulmonary alterations between brachycephalic and mesaticephalic breeds. It has been demonstrated that extreme brachycephalic dog breeds (English Bulldogs, French Bulldogs and Pugs) are at increased risk of developing aspiration pneumonia

but it is not known if they are more susceptible to pulmonary parenchymal changes detected on CT scan compared to weight matched mesaticephalic dogs. This study is important to help to further evaluate and understand components of brachycephalic airway syndrome (BAS), including lower airway changes.

METHODS

246 CT scans were analysed, with 213 brachycephalic dogs and 33 mesaticephalic dogs. CTs from dogs in the mesaticephalic control group were excluded if they had any current or historical clinical signs relating to respiratory disease.

RESULTS

87/213 (40%) of the brachycephalic group had pulmonary changes documented compared with 7/33 (21%) of the mesaticephalic group. 36/213 (16%) of the brachycephalic dogs had pulmonary changes consistent with pneumonia compared with 0/33 of the mesaticephalic dogs. 20/213 (9%) of the brachycephalic dogs had pulmonary consolidation compared to 1/33 (3%) of the mesaticephalic dogs. 63/213 (29%) of the brachycephalic dogs had atelectasis compared with 6/33 (18%) of the mesaticephalic dogs.

STATEMENT (CONCLUSIONS)

Individual variation was found among the brachycephalic breeds and further studies investigating the relationship between pulmonary changes, clinical disease and severity of brachycephalic airway syndrome are warranted.