paraparetic on presentation; one was non-ambulatory. Twenty-three stenotic regions were identified with the most common region being T4–T5. Three dogs were treated surgically and all had a good long-term outcome. In Group 2, 33/175 dogs had at least one stenotic region with the most common being T2–T3. The degree of the stenosis was significantly higher in Group 1 ($p = .01928$).

STATEMENT (CONCLUSIONS)

Thoracic vertebral canal stenosis can affect screw-tailed brachycephalic breeds. The vertebral canal in neurologically-affected screw-tailed brachycephalic dogs was 21.2% smaller compared to non-neurologically affected dogs.

Assessment of quality of life in untreated mild idiopathic canine epilepsy

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OBJECTIVES

To assess and compare the quality of life of a population of untreated dogs with mild idiopathic epilepsy *versus* a control group medicated with anti-epileptic drugs.

METHODS

Cross-sectional study. Two online questionnaires were developed for dogs receiving treatment and dogs untreated, and included quality of life associated questions. Carers were contacted by email and data acquired

from 2009 to 2017. The results were analysed using Microsoft Excel® and Graphpad Software.

RESULTS

A total of 41 surveys were sent, with 26 replies for the control group and 7 for the untreated group and included 5 themes: "Abnormal behaviours", "Carers' quality of life"; "Dog's quality of life" and "Acceptability and progression of seizure frequency and severity". The untreated dogs did not show progression of seizure frequency or severity. There were statistically significant differences between the two groups in the quality of life of both the dogs and the carers. Epilepsy did not seem to impact the lives of carers in the non-medicated group. Equally, untreated dogs were perceived to have higher quality of life rates when compared to the medicated group.

STATEMENT (CONCLUSIONS)

Untreated patients with mild idiopathic epilepsy displayed higher quality of life ratings, as well as their carers, when compared to the medicated group. Moreover, there was no progression of disease in either frequency or severity, which contrasts with the accepted definition of epilepsy as a progressive condition, suggesting that in some patients there may be no disease progression.