(78.2%) and preferred OVH (83.0%). A Kruskal Wallis test indicated the most important factor influencing a surgeon's choice of bitch neutering technique was their own clinical experience and lack of training in other techniques ($p < 0.0001$). Cost was the least important factor.

STATEMENT (CONCLUSIONS)

The results of this survey show that despite OVH still being the most commonly used neutering technique in the UK, most surgeons have a desire to practice different techniques. Our data suggest that OVH may be the mainstay technique used in UK practices due to the lack of post-graduate training offered to employees.

Identifying risk factors for cardiac murmurs in dogs and cats

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OBJECTIVES

To identify risk factors associated with the presence of a cardiac murmur in dogs and cats using data from the Small Animal Surveillance Network (SAVSNET).

METHODS

A retrospective case-control study using text mining to screen over 4 million consultation notes from participating small animal practices across the UK. Using a regular expression and classification system, 1419 consultations where a murmur was recorded in the free text were randomly identified. These were compared to 20,000

control animals which did not have the word 'murmur' identified in their records. Both odds ratios (OR) and confidence intervals were calculated for species, breed, age, gender and neutering status for both species.

RESULTS

Certain dog breeds were shown to have a higher risk of murmurs in this population, the top being the Cavalier King Charles Spaniel (OR 10.6). The results also showed males (dogs OR 1.07, cats 1.28) and neutered (dogs OR 1.18, cats OR 1.19) animals had a higher risk. Overall cats were more at risk than dogs (OR 1.57).

STATEMENT (CONCLUSIONS)

The results show certain animals appear to be at a higher risk of developing a murmur. This is the first time that such data has been used to evaluate murmurs in a large population of animals. Murmurs are common and often the first sign of heart disease, so by identifying animals at risk of murmurs, the management of cardiac disease in animals could be improved.

This was a non-funded summer research project carried out by a student hoping to pursue a career in small animal cardiology.

Impact on ear concentrations of the active ingredients following ear cleaning with a ceruminolytic cleaner in dogs receiving a unique otic gel (florfenicol, terbinafine, betamethasone acetate)

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OBJECTIVES

To determine the impact of a ceruminolytic cleaner on ear canal depletion of active ingredients of a unique otic gel for dogs, after two doses, and beyond the labelled period of efficacy.

METHODS

Twelve adult dogs (4 groups of 3 dogs) with clinically normal ears were enrolled in this randomized, unblinded depletion study.

On Day 0 (D0), before first treatment, both ears of all dogs were cleaned with saline and ear swabs taken from both ears.

All dogs were treated bilaterally with the otic gel on D0 and D7.

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On: Wed, 26 Apr 2023 15:24:52

Poster presentations

Bilateral ear swabs were collected from three dogs each as follows: D28 post-cleaning with ceruminolytic cleaner and additional ear swab on D30; D45 post-cleaning with ceruminolytic cleaner and additional ear swab on D47; D60 (no cleaning); and D80 (no cleaning).

RESULTS

Concentrations of actives were substantially higher after cleaning on D28 compared to swabs collected 48 hours later (D30) with similar results from D45 to D47. This is due to actives measured from loosened cerumen immediately post-cleaning resulting in an increase of cerumen on swabs.

Cleaning on D28 or D45 enhanced the removal of active ingredients as demonstrated by lower concentrations compared to those measured on D60 without cleaning.

STATEMENT (CONCLUSIONS)

Ear cleaning with a ceruminolytic removes active ingredients but may need repeating to further clean out loosened cerumen. Without cleaning, concentrations of actives remain measurable for at least 60 days after administration on D0 followed by a second administration on D7, with measurements at or below level of quantification by D80.

Pylorogastric intussusception in a puppy with a congenital intrahepatic shunt

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OBJECTIVES

To report the first case of intrahepatic portosystemic shunt and concurrent pylorogastric intussusception in a dog.

METHODS

Case report of a single patient describing intrahepatic portosystemic shunt and concurrent pylorogastric intussusception in a dog.

RESULTS

A 16-week-old female entire Akita-Inu puppy presented for investigation of abdominal distention, acute vomiting

and transient diarrhoea. After removal of transudate by abdominocentesis, abdominal ultrasound revealed a small and diffusely hyperechoic liver without visualisation of parenchymatous branching of portal vessels and abnormal tortuous course of the intrahepatic vessel connecting the portal vein and caudal vena cava in the right liver lobes. Additionally, pylorogastric intussusception was detected. The pylorus and proximal duodenum were displaced into the pyloric antrum and fundus. Multiple concentric echogenic and echolucent rings were visible on transverse section and colour Doppler ultrasonography revealed blood flow in vessels of the intussuscepted segment of stomach. Due to high surgical costs, medical management with amoxicillin clavulanic acid (12.5 mg/kg PO q12h), lactulose (5ml PO q8h), famotidine (0.5 mg/kg PO q24) and probiotics (1g PO q24) was elected. Three weeks later, abdominal ultrasound revealed a large amount of free anechogenic fluid in the abdomen and due to clinical deterioration, poor prognosis and financial concerns for coil embolisation, the puppy was euthanised.

STATEMENT (CONCLUSIONS)

This is the first report in veterinary literature describing the occurrence of an intrahepatic portosystemic shunt and concurrent pylorogastric intussusception. Pylorogastric intussusceptions can resolve spontaneously, however, they can be life threatening and the diagnosis can be made based on abdominal ultrasonographic findings.