Poster presentations

Further investigations were declined given the poor prognosis and the patient was humanely euthanised.

Post-mortem histopathology exhibited severe myofiber diameter variability with degenerative changes and prominent calcific deposits in the tongue and diaphragm. Similar findings were detected in multiple skeletal muscles.

Generally, fresh or frozen samples are needed for immunohistochemical investigations. An alternative immunohistochemistry technique (HRP method) using anti-DYS1, DYS2, DYS3, α -sarcoglycan and γ -sarcoglycan

antibodies in formalin-fixed samples was performed. The negativity for dystrophin confirmed the diagnosis of feline muscular dystrophy.

STATEMENT (CONCLUSIONS)

An unusual clinical presentation of feline muscular dystrophy is described. This condition should be considered in cats presenting with regurgitation and tongue lesions. The HRP method can be used in formalin-fixed muscle samples to confirm the diagnosis.

Comparison of outcome of dogs with thoracolumbar spinal injuries based on treatment and severity of neurologic status

Panagiotis Kokkinos¹, Georgios Kazakos², Nikitas Prassinis², Michael Patsikas², Leonidas Panagiotis Ntioukas³

¹ Animal Health Trust, Lanwades Park, Kentford, Newmarket, Suffolk CB8 7UU, United Kingdom

² Companion Animal Clinic, School of Veterinary Medicine, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Thessaloniki, Greece

³ Department of Statistics, Athens University of Economics and Business, Athens, Greece

OBJECTIVES

To retrospectively compare the outcome of dogs with fractures/luxations of the thoracolumbar spine based on neurologic status and treatment method.

METHODS

In our study period, 53 dogs with injury of the thoracolumbar spine and a recorded outcome were enrolled.

Neurologic status was classified in a 5-grade scale; an additional grade ("grey zone") introduced between paraplegic cases with (grade 4) and without (grade 5) nociception and included subjects with reduced, but not absent, deep pain perception. The statistical models used for the purposes of this study aimed to reveal useful insights about the variables that affect final clinical outcome the most. Additionally, the distribution of incidents between each possible level of neurologic grade, final clinical outcome and treatment were examined and tested independently. The R software was used for the statistical analysis and a value of $p < 0.05$ was considered significant.

RESULTS

The neurologic status was the only statistically significant variable affecting outcome. No other variable or comparison revealed a statistically significant result. Furthermore, the newly introduced grey-zone showed to have a trend towards the less severe cases (grade 1 to 4) regarding treatment, whereas a trend towards the most severe cases (grade 5) was shown regarding outcome.

STATEMENT (CONCLUSIONS)

The severity of neurological status affects the outcome. Cases classified in the grey zone had similar outcome to the severe cases (grade 5), despite being treated in a pattern similar to the milder cases (grades 1 to 4). Concluding, in severe thoracolumbar syndrome the reduced but not absent deep pain perception did not significantly improve outcome of affected dogs.

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