(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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