STATEMENT (CONCLUSIONS)

Concurrent pleural and abdominal effusion represents a diagnostic challenge. Neoplasia, idiopathic pericarditis and protein losing enteropathy were the most common

diagnoses in this cohort of dogs. Prognosis is reasonable for 30-day survival although appears to be guarded in those where a diagnosis is not reached.

Is extreme body size in dogs associated with differing longevity and mortality in the UK?

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OBJECTIVES

Wide variations exist across dog breed size. This study aimed to compare longevity and mortality between extreme and non-extreme sized dogs.

METHODS

Deceased dogs were identified from anonymised electronic patient records from primary-care UK practices participating in VetCompass™ during 2016. Demographic and mortality data were extracted and dogs were grouped according to body size. Risk factor analysis for the major causes of death used multivariable logistic

regression. Kaplan-Meier survival analysis evaluated time to death from when they reached adult bodyweight (18mts), in dogs of different body size.

RESULTS

The study included 15,767 deceased dogs. Median longevity was 12.2 years (IQR 10.0–14.0) in medium-sized dogs (18.0–26.9kg), 12.4 years (IQR 9.3–14.7) in toy-sized dogs (≤ 4.5 kg) and 8.3 years (IQR 6.7–9.8) in giant-sized dogs (>50 kg). Compared with medium-sized dogs, toy-sized dogs had increased odds of death from cardiac (odds ratio (OR) 3.60, 95% CI 2.49–5.21), lower respiratory tract (OR 3.08, 95% CI 2.07–4.58) and brain disorders (OR 1.43, 95% CI 1.02–2.02), whereas giant-sized dogs had increased odds of death from musculoskeletal (OR 2.36, 95% CI 1.47–3.78), collapse (OR 1.80, 95% CI 1.17–2.78) and cardiac disorder (OR 1.77, 95% CI 1.05–3.00). Kaplan-Meier survival analysis identified similar survival patterns between toy-sized and medium-sized dogs, but showed substantially shorter survival for giant-sized dogs.

STATEMENT (CONCLUSIONS)

This study highlights major differences in common causes of death dependent upon body-size. Veterinary professionals can use this information for earlier diagnosis and to prepare owners for eventual outcomes.

Do pendulous ears predispose dogs to otitis externa?

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OBJECTIVES

Otitis externa is commonly diagnosed in UK first-opinion practice. Referral studies suggest that pendulous-eared dogs are over-represented among affected breeds, but these studies are often limited by small sample sizes and selection bias. This study aimed to report the prevalence

and risk factors for otitis externa in first-opinion UK caseloads, with particular focus on associations with ear carriage.

METHODS

Demographic and diagnostic information was extracted from anonymised electronic patient records of a random sample of first-opinion dogs in the VetCompass™ database seen during 2016. Breeds were categorised by ear carriage and the data were analysed to report the one-year period prevalence of otitis externa. Risk factor analysis used multivariable logistic regression modelling.

RESULTS

Of 22,333 study dogs, 1631 had otitis externa during 2016, giving a one-year period prevalence of 7.30%