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%

(95% CI: 7.00–7.70). Pendulous-eared dogs had 1.79 times the odds of otitis externa compared with dogs with erect ears (95% CI: 1.53–2.10, $P < 0.001$). Males had 1.23 times the odds of otitis externa compared with females (95% CI 1.11–1.36, $P < 0.001$). Insured dogs had 1.42 times the odds of otitis externa compared with uninsured dogs (95% CI: 1.24–1.62, $P < 0.001$).

STATEMENT (CONCLUSIONS)

This study confirms predisposition to otitis externa in pendulous-eared dogs. In future, veterinarians should be extra vigilant about otic examination and owner education in these breeds in order to improve prevention and management of this debilitating and often recurrent disease.

Ingestion of unsuitable material and emesis induction at home – A survey among dog owners

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OBJECTIVES

The aim was to collect information on how often and what kind of unsuitable material dogs accidentally ingest at home, and which measures the owners usually take.

METHODS

Dog owners were contacted via social media in the UK and by email in the US to respond to an online survey (Webropol 2.0).

RESULTS

473 dog owners (UK: 269, US: 204) completed the survey. 88% of all dogs had sometimes eaten something unsuitable (e.g. foreign objects, human food toxic for dogs, medicines, other poisonous material or excessive amount of food), 75% more than once and 24% even more than 5 times. This is not just a puppy behaviour as only 23% of the dogs eating unwanted things were younger than 1 year.

After these incidences, about half of the owners contacted a veterinarian. Advice was also sought from friends, breeders, and internet. Hardly any owners induced vomiting at home without consulting anyone. The most commonly used emetic substances were table salt and hydrogen peroxide. 22% of the owners answering the survey reported having succeeded in inducing emesis (with or without consultation).

If available, 74% of the owners would be interested in using a prescription medicine to safely induce vomiting at home. However, most owners (86%) would still consult a veterinarian to check if induction of vomiting is the right option.

STATEMENT (CONCLUSIONS)

The survey increases the knowledge about dogs' habit of eating unsuitable material and the consequent measures taken at home including owners' willingness to consult a veterinarian in those situations.

Utility of C-reactive protein as a biomarker of remission in immune-mediated polyarthritis in dogs

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OBJECTIVES

To assess the validity of C-reactive protein (CRP) as a biomarker of resolution of neutrophilic joint inflammation

in dogs undergoing treatment for immune-mediated polyarthritis (IMPA).

METHODS

Medical records at Langford Vets were retrospectively reviewed to identify dogs diagnosed with type I or III IMPA between 2016 and 2019. Dogs were required to have undergone re-examination including CRP analysis and arthrocentesis, from at least three joints, within six weeks of diagnosis. CRP was compared to joint cytology. The hypothesis was that CRP would represent a sensitive marker for neutrophilic inflammation compatible with ongoing joint inflammation in dogs undergoing treatment for IMPA.

RESULTS

Nine dogs were included in the study. At the time of re-assessment all dogs were receiving prednisolone (1.9–2.1mg/kg/day) and two cases were also receiving