Hot dogs – What triggers fan the flames of heat related illness for UK dogs?

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OBJECTIVES

Current heat related illness awareness campaigns focus on hot cars as the dominant trigger, but other causes could be more important. This study aimed to explore common triggers for heat related illness in dogs under primary veterinary care in the UK.

METHODS

Dogs with heat related illness events during 2016 were identified from VetCompass™ first-opinion clinical records. Inciting events and mortality data were extracted

to compare common triggers. Logistic regression analysis explored fatality risk.

RESULTS

From 905,543 dogs 1222 cases were identified, some with multiple events. Overall, 30.2% of events had no specific cause reported. Of the remaining 879 events, the most common triggers were exercise 74.2%, exposure to a hot outdoor environment 13.0%, confinement in a hot car 5.2%, treatment by a veterinarian or groomer 4.6% and confinement in a hot building 3.1%. The 2016 fatality rate of heat related illness cases was 14.2%. Of the known causes, only cases following entrapment in a hot building had increased odds of death compared to cases following exercise (odds ratio 6.6, 95%CI 2.6–16.6).

STATEMENT (CONCLUSIONS)

This study highlights exercise as the most common cause of heat related illness in UK dogs, accounting for fourteen times as many cases as hot cars; entrapment in a hot building had six times the odds of death. These findings suggest that we need to rethink heat related illness education strategies, veterinarians should alert owners to the hazards of exercising dogs in hot weather or leaving them in hot buildings in addition to annual "dogs die in hot cars" campaigns.

Unusual presentation of ulcerative necrotizing stomatitis and rhinitis with neutrophilic-eosinophilic-granulomatous inflammation and possible vasculitis in a dog

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OBJECTIVES

To present an unusual case of probable immune-mediated necrotizing stomatitis and rhinitis.

METHODS

Case report.

RESULTS

A 2-year-old female springer spaniel was referred for severe recurrent stomatitis and unilateral nasal discharge. Gingival lesions were treated for 17 months prior to presentation with extended courses of antibiotics, NSAIDs, local antiseptic, surgical debridement and teeth extraction which resulted in only temporary improvement.

Oral examination revealed extensive multifocal necrotizing ulcers with pseudomembrane on the buccal mucosa with no evidence for periodontal disease. Diagnostic investigation including blood test (CBC, biochemistry, infectious disease screening), CT scan, and biopsies of oral, para-oral and nasal tissue (for histopathology, bacteriology and fungal culture) gave a diagnosis of neutrophilic, eosinophilic, granulomatous stomatitis and rhinitis. The partial response to the above treatment, and the histopathology findings, suggested an immune-mediated process. Treatment with prednisolone (0.75mg/kg BID) resulted in a clinical improvement within 2 days. However, tapering of steroids (to 0.3mg/kg BID) caused relapse of clinical signs. Subsequent biopsies suggested an underlying neutrophilic vasculitis. Accordingly, treatment with Pentoxifylline (18.75mg/kg BID) and ciclosporin (5mg/kg/day) was added, which resulted in complete remission for 6 months. Subsequent relapse

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required increase in prednisolone dose (to 0.9mg/kg BID) to control clinical signs.

STATEMENT (CONCLUSIONS)

While stomatitis is a common finding in dogs, vasculitis is an uncommon and poorly understood condition, and

association with oral ulceration has, to the authors' knowledge, only been reported once. Concurrent neutrophilic-eosinophilic-granulomatous inflammation made the case even more unusual. The presentation resembles a form of granulomatosis with polyangiitis seen in humans.

Exploring the occurrence of hypoadrenocorticism (Addison's Disease) in UK dogs attending VetCompass primary-care practices

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OBJECTIVES

To estimate prevalence, explore risk factors and benchmark presenting signs, diagnostic approaches and management for hypoadrenocorticism in dogs in the UK.

METHODS

Hypoadrenocorticism cases were identified by searching electronic patient records from primary-care UK practices participating in VetCompass™ in 2016. Data on demography, clinical presentation, diagnostic investigation and

management were extracted. Risk factor analysis used logistic regression.

RESULTS

There were 234 hypoadrenocorticism cases from 905543 dogs giving a 0.066% (95% CI: 0.066–0.067) prevalence.

Logistic regression identified five associated risk factors. Predisposed breed types included Poodles, Labradoodles and West-highland-white-terriers. Poodle-type breeds had 5.91 greater odds (CI 2.39–14.59, $P < 0.001$) compared to non-poodles. Increasing muzzle size increased odds of diagnosis. Sex was not associated with diagnosis, but entire males had 0.27 reduced odds compared to neutered males (CI 0.11–0.64, $P = 0.003$). Dogs weighing 10–20kg has 3.57 greater odds (CI 1.30–9.83, $P = 0.014$) than dogs <10kg. Dogs aged 5–8 years had 3.93 greater odds (CI 1.73–8.93; $P = 0.001$) than dogs <9 years. The most common presenting signs were inappetence (76.60%), lethargy (73.92%) and vomiting (61.59%).

Of those with results reported, 51.22% had absent stress leukograms, 88.89% were hyperkalaemic, 86.90% were hypernatraemic and 61.54% were hypoglycemic.

A relapse in hypoadrenocorticism was experienced by 2.99% of dogs treated with DOCP and 10.68% with fludrocortisone.

STATEMENT (CONCLUSIONS)

This largest UK epidemiological study of canine hypoadrenocorticism to date confirms predisposition in Poodles, but conflicts previous reports of a female predisposition. These results provide benchmark data for veterinarians about presenting signs, diagnostics and outcomes that can promote quality improvement in the clinical management of this disorder.

Owner-perceived adverse reactions within two days of vaccine administration in dogs

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OBJECTIVES

To investigate owner-perceived adverse reactions in the two days following vaccine administration, reported by participants in an ongoing longitudinal study of canine health and behaviour.

METHODS

In an online survey issued when puppies were 16-weeks-old, owners were asked to select from a pre-defined list