Oral presentations

Protein losing enteropathy in dogs: A retrospective study of 76 cases

Tereza Bodnarova¹, Andrew Kent²

1 University of Bristol, Bristol, United Kingdom

2 Willows Veterinary Centre and Referral Service, Shirley, United Kingdom

OBJECTIVES

- Describe a population of dogs diagnosed with Protein Losing Enteropathy (PLE)
- Determine prognostic factors
- Investigate survival and long term follow up.

METHODS

Medical records of dogs undergoing gastro-intestinal endoscopy and biopsy between 2013 and 2017 were retrospectively searched to identify patients presented with PLE. The collected clinical data included: History, presenting signs, clinicopathological data, imaging and histopathological findings, treatment and outcome.

Follow up was obtained by contacting the referring veterinary surgeons and/or the owners. Comparison was made between surviving and non-surviving patients.

RESULTS

There were 76 dogs (39 females and 37 males) diagnosed with PLE, at the age of six months to 14 years. The most commonly presented breeds were Staffordshire Bull Terriers (8/76), Labrador Retrievers (8/76) and Pugs (5/76).

Change of appetite was more common in non-surviving dogs (58% versus 25%).

Prognostic factors such as albumin, urea, lymphocytes, CCECAI/CIBDAI were not statistically significant, whereas white blood cell, neutrophil and monocyte count were statistically significant risk factors for negative outcome ($p < 0.01$). None of the dogs with histopathological lesions graded as marked or severe lived longer than six months.

The mortality rate was 63% (48/76). All non-survived patients lived less than 13 months, of which 83% (40/48) lived less than six months. 20 dogs were euthanised due to poor response to treatment, 17 dogs suffered from relapses. Only 23% of survived dogs, requiring immunosuppressive drugs, remained on long-term medication.

STATEMENT (CONCLUSIONS)

These data will help clinicians in advising owners about negative prognostic indicators and survival rate of dogs with PLE.

Evaluation of the effectiveness of psyllium husk for the management of chronic idiopathic large-bowel diarrhoea in police working dogs

Angelo Pitaes¹, Ana Santos², Patricia Jorge², Joao Alves³

1 Vale Vets, Dursley, United Kingdom

2 ICAAM – Instituto de Ciências Agrárias e Ambientais Mediterrâneas – Universidade de Évora, Núcleo da Mitra, Évora, Portugal

3 Guarda Nacional Republicana, Lisbon, Portugal

OBJECTIVES

To evaluate the effectiveness of dietary supplementation with psyllium husk in police working dogs with chronic large-bowel diarrhoea.

METHODS

In a prospective study, twenty-two animals were signalled, and other illnesses were ruled out through complete blood count and assessment of albumin, total protein, urea, creatinine, alkaline phosphatase, alanine aminotransferase, bilirubin, cholesterol, sodium, potassium, chloride, calcium and phosphorus. Faecal samples were also obtained, and faecal flotations were conducted, in addition to faecal *Clostridium* and *Salmonella* screening. All dogs had a source of soluble fibre added to their diet, psyllium husk, commercially available as a powder, at a dose of 4 table-spoons/day for one month. Daily registration of faeces characteristics (type, according to the Bristol stool chart, frequency and colour) were maintained during the supplementation period and for an additional month, without supplementation. Animals were weighed weekly.

RESULTS

Response to treatment was classified as very good in 50% of animals, good in 40% of animals and poor in 10%

Delivered by BSAVA to:

Guest (guest)

IP: 54.166.219.16

On: Wed, 26 Apr 2023 11:22:41

of cases. During the month of psyllium supplementation, defecation frequency decreased from 3.5 to 2.9 times a day, with 90% of animals showing consistent stool on a regular basis and registering a mean increase of 2kg in body weight. Beneficial effects were still observed during the second month, without psyllium supplementation.

STATEMENT (CONCLUSIONS)

Diet supplementation with psyllium husk can be an effective tool in the management of chronic large-bowel diarrhoea. It may be an interesting supplementation to maintain on a regular basis in working dogs, due to their prone nature to develop colitis.