Current trends in the fluid and blood products stocked by small animal practices in the UK

**David Beeston, Jasmine Charnock,
Simon Cook**

Royal Veterinary College, London, United Kingdom

OBJECTIVES

Fluid therapy is a critical component of small animal general and referral practice alike. Numerous resources are available to practitioners; however, little is known regarding the diversity and distribution of products within UK veterinary practices. This study aimed to investigate and discuss the current trends in fluid and blood product availability in small animal practices in the UK.

METHODS

An online survey was emailed to veterinary practices across the UK and circulated via social media. The survey

included questions regarding the level of emergency and/or critical care provided, the type of fluid therapy products stocked, the most frequently restocked products, and the available options in the event that blood products were required.

RESULTS

There were 396 respondents representing a spectrum of clinics and 19 referral practices. Crystalloid solutions were stocked in all practices. Lactated Ringer's Solution was the most frequently re-stocked product in 90% of practices (355/396). Synthetic colloids were stocked in 45% of practices (178/396). Where colloids were stocked, gelatin-based colloids (155/178) were stocked in preference over hydroxyethyl starches (23/178). Blood products were stocked in 20% of practices (81/396). Fresh frozen plasma (FFP) was the most commonly stocked blood product (67/81). If a blood product was required but not stocked, 31% of practices would use a pet blood banking service, 28% would use their own blood donors, and 21% would refer.

STATEMENT (CONCLUSIONS)

This study provides an insight into the fluid and blood products stocked by a selection of veterinary practices within the UK, and the decision-making process for their use.