Prevalence of disorders in Miniature Schnauzers attending UK primary-care practices

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OBJECTIVES
The Miniature Schnauzer has increased in popularity over the last two decades, with the number of puppies being registered with the Kennel Club doubling over this period. This study aimed to describe the demography and disorders in Miniature Schnauzers attending UK primary veterinary practice.

METHODS
All dogs recorded as Miniature Schnauzer and under veterinary care during 2013 were extracted from the VetCompass database of primary-care clinical records. The full clinical records of a random sample were manually examined in detail to extract data on all disorders recorded during 2013.

RESULTS
The study examined 1,970 (51.1%) from the overall 3,857 Miniature Schnauzers identified. The median age was 3 years 11 months (IQR: 1 year 7 months to 6 years 5 months). Overall, 63.8% of the females and 49.4% of the males were neutered.

The most prevalent disorders were dental disease (n=357, 18.1%, 95% CI 16.4-19.8%), obesity (n=165, 8.4%, 95% CI 7.2-9.6%), anal sac impaction (n=116, 5.8%, 95% CI 4.8-6.8%), vomiting (n=106, 5.4%, 95% CI 4.4-6.9%), otitis externa (n=101, 5.1%, 95% CI 4.2-6.1%), heart murmur (n=82, 4.2%, 95% CI 3.3-5.0%), diarrhoea (n=82, 4.2%, 95% CI 3.3-5.0%) and skin mass (n=70, 3.6%, 95% CI 2.7-4.4%).

STATEMENT
These results provide generalisable and up-to-date evidence to inform veterinarians, breeders and dog owners on the common health issues affecting the Miniature Schnauzer. This study will also help to prioritise disorders for future research in Miniature Schnauzers.

Preliminary findings of an investigation into the efficacy of heparinised saline solution versus normal saline solution for maintaining patency of peripheral intravenous catheters in dogs

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OBJECTIVES
To establish the efficacy of heparinised versus normal saline solution in maintaining intravenous catheter patency in dogs.

METHODS
Prospective randomised double blinded clinical investigation. Twelve client owned dogs hospitalised for radiotherapy requiring an intravenous catheter for at least 24 hours had a 20g catheter placed in their cephalic vein. Flush solution was either 2 IU ml⁻¹ heparin in 0.9% saline (Group HS) or 0.9% saline only (Group S) and patients requiring subsequent catheters were reassigned to the alternative solution with each successive placement. Upon removal a questionnaire was completed to capture duration of placement and reasons for removal or loss. Data were tested for normality and analysed with Mann Whitney U and Fisher’s Exact tests; p<0.05 was considered significant.

RESULTS
Thirty-five catheters (17 Group HS, 18 Group S) were placed in 12 dogs; median placement duration was 91.6 (30.4–105.6) hours. Catheter loss overall was 18% (Group HS) and 28% (Group S). Loss due to thrombus formation was 5.9% (Group HS) and 5.5% (Group S). No significant differences for catheter duration (p=0.82),
Oral presentations

An epidemiological study of feline idiopathic cystitis in cats attending a first-opinion veterinary practice in Seoul, South Korea

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OBJECTIVES

The objective of this study was to investigate the prevalence and risk factors for the diagnosis of feline idiopathic cystitis (FIC) in a primarily indoor environment.

METHODS

A case-control study nested in a cohort of cats attending a first-opinion veterinary practice was undertaken. Cats presented with lower urinary tract signs (LUTS) were classified as FIC cases when a physical examination,