



ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

Title: Most Common Small Animal Emergency Problems in the UK

Abstract No. 0046

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Abstract

Objective – To describe the acute-care patient population and identify the most common reasons for which pets are presented for acute illness,

Design – Retrospective database analysis

Setting – 50 private after-hours emergency clinics in the UK

Animals – 125,584 dogs, cats, rabbits and other companion animal species

Procedures – The Vets Now practice management system was queried for a list of all patients seen between July 2012 and January 2014. Records contained species, breed, age, sex, location, symptom, VeNOM presenting complaint, and outcome. For each presenting complaint with greater than 100 patients, discharge status was analysed.

Results – Records were retrieved for 81241 dogs, 38020 cats, 3232 rabbits and 3091 pets of other species. For dogs, the four most common presenting complaints and associated mortality were vomiting (n = 9946, 5.1%), traumatic episode (n = 4838, 6.7%) collapse/syncope (n = 4450, 56.6%) and wound (n = 4190, 1.2%). Overall mortality for dogs was 11.9%. 69.1% of dogs were discharged normally. The four most common presenting complaints for cats were traumatic episode (n = 4908, 23.5%), lethargy (n = 2427, 20.6%) wound (n = 2193, 4.2%) and collapse/syncopal episode (n = 2096, 71.2% mortality). Overall mortality for cats was 20.2%, with 58.3% discharged normally.

Clinical Significance – The presenting complaint of collapse/syncopal episode carried the highest mortality rate in both dogs and cats. This is the largest study of acute-care small animal patients in the world and can be used to prioritise further development of training and best practice guidelines.

Approval Confirm

Website Yes

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Keywords emergency, small animal, acute, presenting complaint, mortality, population

Presentation Oral

Biography Ava Firth received her BS and DVM degrees from Ohio State University, followed by a Masters degree from Murdoch University in 1992. She is board-certified in emergency and critical care. Over the last 25 years, she has worked in after-hours emergency clinics as well as holding lectureships at the University of Melbourne, University of Minnesota and University of Glasgow. She has spent the last 10 years in the UK with Vets Now, where she pioneered their in-house training programme and continues to provide leadership in training and clinical research.

Conflict details none

Contact us if you have a problem or wish to withdraw a submission: ebvm@rcvsknowledge.org