

ABSTRACT- ORIGINAL STUDY: SHORT VERSION (maximum 250 words)

TITLE: THE EFFECT OF THE FULL MOON ON SEIZURE CASELOAD PRESENTING TO EMERGENCY CLINICS

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Objective –To examine the frequency at which dogs and cats presented to after-hours emergency clinics due to seizure activity during a full moon and whether lunar cycle impacted on survival to discharge.

Design – Retrospective case series (May 2012 – January 2014)

Setting – Private after-hours emergency clinics in the UK

Animals – 3079 dogs and 788 cats with the presenting complaint 'Seizures'.

Procedures – Records were analysed for species and date of presentation. Data from NASA was used to identify full moon and new moon dates then lunar visibility was calculated for other dates.

Results – 18/788 cats and 114/3079 dogs presented during a full moon. No statistically significant variation in caseload was found between full moon nights and other nights for dogs ($P=0.8383$) or cats ($p=0.1775$). Lunar cycle did not affect survival to discharge in either species.

Conclusions and Clinical Relevance – This is the first study of lunar influence of seizure presentation to emergency clinics in the veterinary literature. This study analysed over 3700 dogs and cats within an 18 month period. Analysis has not previously been performed on this scale, over so many sites or during such concentrated time period. Previous retrospective studies concerning seizures ranged over periods from 3 to 15 years.

Human studies show mixed results of lunar cycle on seizures. This study does not find any impact of lunar cycle on seizure activity in dogs and cats. This addresses a commonly held belief among staff and clients, and may guide staff advising owners about risk factors for seizure occurrence.

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Type of presentation-Preference (Final decision about type of presentation will be taken by EVECCS):

ORAL: xx

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