RESEARCH USING SAVSNET DATA

INCIDENCE OF ALIMENTARY AND RESPIRATORY DISEASE IN BRACHYCEPHALIC DOGS PRESENTING TO PRIMARY CARE VETERINARY PRACTICES PARTICIPATING IN THE SAVSNET PROJECT

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1

BRACHYCEPHALY AND HEALTH

Brachycephalic dogs clinically affected by brachycephalic obstructive airway syndrome have been shown to have a high incidence of gastrointestinal disease, with French Bulldogs (FBD) identified as a particularly affected breed.

2

STUDY DESIGN

Clinical records of 750 brachycephalic dogs attending over 500 practices participating in SAVSNET were analysed to determine the incidence of alimentary and respiratory disease within FBD, Bulldogs (BD) and Pugs. Electronic clinical records were studied for treatment or acknowledgement of specific clinical signs that could be attributed to different anatomical locations.
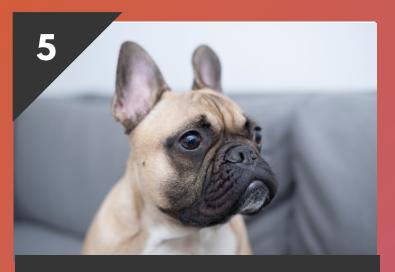
3

OESOPHAGEAL, GASTRIC AND INTESTINAL DISEASE

Significant differences in the incidence of oesophageal ($p = 0.006$), gastric ($p = 0.001$) and intestinal ($p = 0.001$) diseases were present among the breeds studied. FBD had significantly increased odds ratios of having oesophageal (2.0, 2.2), gastric (2.4, 1.5) and intestinal (1.7, 1.5) diseases relative to Pugs and BD, respectively.

4

UPPER RESPIRATORY TRACT DISEASE

Pugs had significantly increased odds ratios of having upper respiratory tract disease relative to BD (1.9).

5

CONCLUSION

The results show the incidence of gastrointestinal disease and upper respiratory tract disease is significantly different between the brachycephalic breeds studied. Furthermore, the general population of FBD has the highest incidence of gastrointestinal disease.

6

THANK YOU

We are very grateful to the veterinary practices who submit data to SAVSNET making this research possible.

Thank you!

> "Extreme brachycephalic breeds continue to be a popular choice. This study highlights the co-existence of respiratory and gastro-intestinal diseases in the brachycephalic breeds studies but particularly in the French Bulldog. The large data volumes collected by SAVSNET make for a useful research resource, allowing us to understand how real patients are managed in real practices."

Dr William Petchell