

GLOBAL NEWS

WSAVA launches vaccination training programme

WSAVA, August 8th 2022

WSAVA launches a multi-module course on vaccines and vaccination practice, available free of charge to members on the WSAVA Academy. The course offers foundational learning on all aspects of vaccine practice for those keen to develop their knowledge in this important area of veterinary medicine. The course is based on the Global Vaccination Guidelines created by the WSAVA's Vaccination Guidelines Group (VGG). Each module features narrated and interactive e-learning, with videos, downloadable resources, multiple choice questions and drag and drop activities to help learners test their knowledge. The modules are available in English and RACE accreditation is underway.

Cat blood pressure checks too infrequent, study claims

Vet Times, August 8th 2022



Vets are being urged to carry out more regular checks on cats' blood pressure following an international study of nearly 9,000 animals. Almost 40 per cent of cats included in the research, published in the Journal of Feline Medicine and Surgery, were found to have hypertension, based on current guidelines. Researchers believe more routine monitoring will make dealing with the issue easier for vets and lead to better outcomes for animals. The research used data on 8,884 cats aged between 7 years old and 26 years old in

811 clinics spread across 16 countries. Overall, 39.7% of all the cats assessed were classed as being hypertensive, with systolic blood pressure (SBP) between 160mmHg and 179mmHg, or severely hypertensive with SBP of 180mmHg or more. Among those, 44.4% were found to have either concomitant chronic kidney disease, hyperthyroidism or both, and cats with one of those conditions were more likely to be hypertensive than those with concomitant disease. The group said more than 15 per cent of cats have heart disease and a third of those are asymptomatic.

Relationship between hearing, cognitive function, and quality of life in aging companion dogs

ACVIM, August 6th 2022



Objective - Evaluate the relationship between cognitive function, quality of life, and hearing loss in aging companion dogs.

Methods - Prospective study in 39 elderly companion dogs. Hearing was evaluated using brainstem auditory evoked response (BAER) testing. Dogs were grouped by hearing ability. Owners completed the canine dementia scale (CADES) and canine owner-reported quality of life (CORQ) questionnaire. Cognitive testing was performed, and cognitive testing outcomes, CADES and CORQ scores and age were compared between hearing groups.

Results - Nineteen dogs could hear at 50dB, 12 at 70dB, and 8 at 90dB with mean ages (months) of 141 ± 14, 160 ± 16, and 172 ± 15 for each group respectively. Vitality and companionship CORQ scores were significantly lower as hearing deteriorated.

Conclusions and Clinical Importance - Presbycusis negatively alters owner-pet interactions and is associated with poor executive performance and owner-assessed dementia severity. The study investigated the relationships among presbycusis, QoL, owner-quantified CCDS and cognitive testing performance in dogs. Similar to previous findings, study suggests that presbycusis is prevalent in aging companion dogs. The only potential risk factors previously identified in dogs for developing CCDS as assessed by CADES were aging and eating an uncontrolled diet. Presbycusis could be a newly identified risk factor in dogs for development of CCDS based on CADES scoring and reduction in executive function test performance. In summary, aging is associated with hearing loss in companion dogs. Much like people who experience social isolation and depression with presbycusis, dog owners perceive a difference in particular aspects of their dog's QoL. Data found that hearing loss was associated with severity of cognitive dysfunction as scored by CADES as well as poorer performance on certain cognitive tests of executive function.

VIVALDIS CORNER

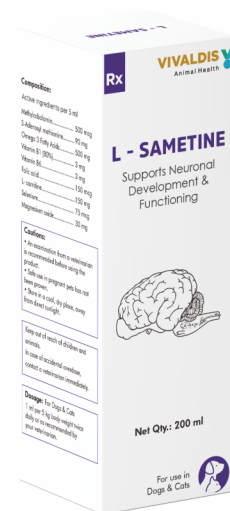
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