

Urinary infection in dogs and cats: Risk factors

BARNA F^{1.}; SANTOS, I. N. M; TORRALBO, L^{1..1,2}; GARCIA, T.V.C.¹; MENEZES, L. C. ²; SANTOS FILHO, P. R.²; SILVA, C. S.²; MEGALE, L. A.²; HENRIQUES, D. A.^{1,2}

¹ Centro Universitário São Camilo, São Paulo, SP, Brasil

² Unidade Veterinária Especializada Dognostic, São Paulo, SP, Brasil

The urinary tract infection (UTI) is one of the most common disease affecting dogs and cats. There is a tendency that a large number of animals, especially dogs, develop at some stage of life this type of infection, being the main bacterial cause. There are some factors that can make the animals more susceptible to infection such as: race, weight, associated diseases, feeding and sanitary conditions of the animal. The present study is retrospective and aims to evaluate possible risk factors that pets may have to acquire an UTI.

Between June 2014 and July 2015, 921 samples collected from dogs and cats by cystocentesis were analyzed and cataloged with animal data: race, age and sex. The statistical analysis of the data was generated by the Microsoft Excel® program.

All the results showed that most of the isolates came from dogs (84%), of which 65% were females. Of the 373 dogs diagnosed with UTI, 63,80% are elderly dogs, 30,83% are adult dogs and 5,36% are young dogs. The dog breed with the most cases of infection after the "Mongrel" with 52 cases is the Poodle with 34 cases (10%) of infection during the year studied, being the following all small breeds like Lhasa Apso (6%), Yorkshire terrier (5,5%) and Schanauzer (5%). The microbiological features were: *Escherichia coli* (39,14%), followed by *Proteus* sp. (20,10%), *Staphylococcus* sp (15,81%) and *Enterococcus* sp. (14,47%). The highest number of infected dogs can present their cause by the action of *E. coli*, because this enterobacterium exists in the intestinal microbiota, thus the greater the susceptibility to this infection. Among cats, which correspond 16% isolated, 26 were females and 31 were males. The felines diagnosed with UTI, 57% are between one and seven years old. The most affected breeds were Persa (18%) and Siames (6%). The microbiological profile founded *E. coli* (45%), *Enterococcus* sp. (17,54%), *Staphylococcus* sp. (15,78%) and *Proteus* sp. (14,03%). Males were more affected, because their urethra is thinner and sinuous, these features make the urethra a great local to colonization and infection.

Based on the genre, the female dogs were more affected, when we have considered the age, the older the animal more susceptible it is. Defining the risk factors is pertinent in order to reduce this kind of infection, since veterinarians and pet owners know that these animals have these characteristics, they can take care of and take the necessary precautions to make their animals live longer.