In each issue of Today’s Veterinary Practice, Pet Health by the Numbers correlates specific article topics with statistics provided by Banfield Pet Hospital (banfield.com). These statistical data are extracted from the medical records of nearly 2.2 million dogs and 460,000 cats presented to more than 800 Banfield Pet Hospitals in 2012 (seizure data) and almost 2.3 million dogs and 470,000 cats presented to more than 850 Banfield Pet Hospitals in 2013 (diabetes data).

These data are based on clinical diagnoses made by the patients’ veterinarians. It is important to note that the total number of dogs in each category (reproductive, body size) may not be identical because some of the parameters were unavailable in the database. Learn more about Banfield’s data collection process by reading Welcome to Pet Health by the Numbers (January/February 2014 issue) at tvpjournal.com.

References

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PeT HealTH by THe Numbers

THE CANINE SEIZURE PATIENT: FOUR IMPORTANT QUESTIONS (page 31)

Considering all pets presented to Banfield Pet Hospitals in 2012:
• The prevalence of seizures in dogs was 1.11% (24,330 of 2.19 million) and, in cats, 0.25% (1141 of 456,728).
• Seizures were diagnosed in 1.30% (10,459 of 802,097) of neutered male dogs and 0.86% (2861 of 334,444) of intact male dogs.
• Seizures were diagnosed in 1.09% (8757 of 799,977) of spayed female dogs and 0.62% (1558 of 252,839) of intact female dogs.

Path to Pet Wellness: This prevalence data from a large number of animals provides an updated picture of seizures in primary care small animal practice. It is in agreement with previous estimations, which have suggested an incidence of 1% to 2% in dogs and 0.5% to 2% in cats. This data emphasizes the importance of understanding seizures in small animals, and being familiar with the differential diagnosis and treatment options for controlling acute events and long-term management. Interestingly, the data points out that there appears to be a higher prevalence of seizures in smaller sized animals, neutered animals, and those with overweight body condition. Based on these data, cause and effect are difficult to determine; for example, polyphagia is reported by owners as an important side effect of first-line anticonvulsant medications. This underscores the importance of understanding the risks and side effects of anti-epileptic drugs, as well as maintaining pets in good body condition. —Evelyn Galban, MS, DVM, Diplomate ACVIM (Neurology)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DOG SIZE</th>
<th>POPULATION IN CATEGORY</th>
<th>PERCENTAGE WITH SEIZURES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Toy/Small (≤ 20 lb)</td>
<td>1,110,407</td>
<td>13,049 (1.18%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medium (20 to &lt; 50 lb)</td>
<td>584,126</td>
<td>5982 (1.02%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Large (50 to &lt; 90 lb)</td>
<td>454,010</td>
<td>4385 (0.97%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Giant (≥ 90 lb)</td>
<td>41,503</td>
<td>219 (0.53%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overweight</td>
<td>451,092</td>
<td>6389 (1.42%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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