

Posters

17. Health screening to identify opportunities to improve preventive medicine in cats and dogs: focus on nutrition status

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Introduction: A free health screening was organized in 2011 by the Small Animal Veterinary Association (SAVAB) to emphasize the importance of preventive healthcare amongst pet owners. The purpose of this paper is to present the main results of the screening in terms of participation, animal health status and nutrition-related problems. **Animals, material and methods:** Vet practices were invited to register their participation on a voluntary base. By doing so, they were agreeing to allow pet owners to present their pet for a free health check (without vaccination, treatment or diagnosis procedures) to assess their pet's health status during the month of February 2011. The data obtained from the vet were recorded and analysed. **Results and discussion:** A total of 5305 health check forms (56 % dogs, 44 % cats) were analysed. Sixty-six % of dogs and 34 % of cats were considered to be « medicalized » (at least 1 visit during the previous year). For 83 % of cats, the major diet component was a commercial food, 16 % were fed mixed diets (commercial and home-made) and 0.8 % was fed homemade diets. Most dogs (65 %) were fed commercial food, 30 % mixed diets and 5 % homemade diets. Sixteen % of dogs were not weighed nor scored for BCS, 22 % and 19 % of cats, respectively, were not weighed nor scored for BCS during the health check. The high percentage of overweight dogs (34 %) and cats (36 %) was a key health issue identified. In a general way, preventive care was low in cats. **Conclusion:** Opportunities for increased quality of care are high. Health nutrition-related problems can benefit from preventive measures and clear recommendations including application of the WSAVA nutritional guidelines (Freeman et al., 2011).