

Prevalence of reproductive conditions in canines

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Received : August 18, 2003

Accepted : November 24, 2003

ABSTRACT

The prevalence of reproductive conditions in canines were analysed from 2498 clinical cases presented to the Small Animal Gynaecology and Obstetrics Unit of Madras Veterinary College hospital during the year 1999 to 2001. The incidence of physiological conditions (61.9%) like breeding advice and pregnancy diagnosis were higher than the pathological disorders (38.1%) like pseudopregnancy, anestrus, medical termination of pregnancy, pyometra, dystokias, postpartum conditions and venereal tumors. Higher incidences of reproductive conditions were recorded during South West Monsoon (27.94%). Majority of the reproductive problems occurred in bitches aged 1 to 2 years (42.31%) and in the Spitz breed (38.71%).

Key words : Incidence, Reproductive disorders, canine

In India awareness on canine health and disease has increased over the years. In the recent past tremendous progress has been made in canine reproduction and canine breeding is the corner stone for its development. There is paucity of information on the prevalence and detailed study of various reproductive (both physiological and pathological) conditions in canines. Hence this retrospective study was conducted to record the pattern of occurrence of various reproductive conditions in relation to the age, season and breed.

A total of 2498 clinical cases presented during the year 1999 to 2001 to the small Animal Gynaecology and Obstetrics Unit of Madras Veterinary College were analyzed. The physiological conditions were breeding advice, pregnancy diagnosis and pathological conditions included pseudopregnancy, medical termination of pregnancy, anestrus, pyometra, dystocia, postpartum conditions and venereal tumors. The seasons were classified as North East Monsoon (Sept - Nov), Summer (March - May), South West Monsoon (June - Aug) and Winter (Dec- Feb) The commonly encountered breeds were Spitz, Dachshund, German

Shepherd, Lhasa apso, Doberman, Cocker Spaniel, Boxer, Labrador, Great Dane, Crossbreds and Non-descript.

The physiological conditions (61.9%) occurred more frequently than the pathological problems (38.1%). Pregnancy diagnosis (33.7%) and breeding advice (28.2%) constitute the major segment of the physiological conditions which substantiate the study of Gandotra *et al.* (1993). Among pathological conditions pyometra showed the highest incidence (12.6%) and venereal tumor (1.4%) the lowest. Postpartum complications showed an incidence of 7.6%, pseudopregnancy- 6.3%, dystocia-2.5% and anestrus- 1.7%. Phangcho *et al.* (1990) and Gandotra *et al.* (1993) recorded higher incidence of venereal tumors. The low incidence of venereal tumor observed could be due to controlled breeding practice followed in this region.

This study revealed higher incidence of breeding advice (37%), medical termination of pregnancy (7.5%) and dystocia (2.7%) in the age group of 0 to 2 years, pregnancy diagnosis (38.6%) in the age group of 2 to 4 years, pseudopregnancy (10%) in the age group of 6 to 8 years, venereal tumor (7.4%) and pyometra (7.4%) in the age group of above 10 years. Bitches in the age group of 0 to 2 years showed higher incidence of overall reproductive conditions.

The Spitz breed (38.7%) showed highest incidence of reproductive conditions and the lowest incidence was observed in Cocker Spaniel (0.84%). Higher incidence of reproductive conditions in Spitz breed may be due large number of cases presented in that particular breed Among

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different breeds dystokia were found more commonly in smaller breeds than in larger breeds which agrees with the report of Feldman *et al.* (1987).

The overall pattern of reproductive condition in canines showed higher incidence of physiological conditions and higher incidence of reproductive conditions in Spitz breed. The occurrence of reproductive conditions were higher in South West Monsoon and in the age group of 1 to 2 years.

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P-244671

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