

Danish Veterinary Cancer Registry – A Feasibility Study

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Cancer registries are invaluable in the evaluation of cancer incidence in man. They offer estimates of risk of cancer in population groups as well as assessment of changes in cancer occurrence over time and supply epidemiological data for studies of cancer distribution. Veterinary cancer registries potentially serve as sources of information on spontaneous animal cancers, serve as sentinels for human cancers, and help identify risk factors in carcinogenesis.

The objective of this feasibility study was to evaluate a web-based submission form for initiation of a Danish Veterinary Cancer Registry. A prospective study was initiated in the spring of 2005. Eighteen clinics across Denmark are reporting neoplasias to a central registry at the Royal Veterinary and Agricultural University. Information reported includes species, breed, sex, age, and zip-code. Both benign and malignant neoplasias are being registered. At present the Registry holds more than 300 cases. Updated epidemiologic evaluation of submitted cases at the time of the symposium with a comparison to other registries and surveys of cancer in veterinary populations will be presented as well as an evaluation of the submission method.

The usefulness of registry data depends on the quality of the characterisation of the population at risk. The Danish dog and cat populations are well-known as registration is required by law. This suggests that the establishment of a comprehensive Danish Veterinary Cancer Registry may provide detailed information on incidence and risk factors in cancer research and promote better health of both humans and companion animals.