

THE OCCURRENCE OF REPRODUCTIVE CONDITIONS IN DOGS IN EDO STATE OF NIGERIA

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Dogs are the most primitive companion animal of man and has been domesticated as early as 8,000 BC. The commonly housed ones belong to the family *Canis familiaris*. They are used for several purposes including sports, hunting, guide, guard, companionship and other recreational purposes. The common reproductive diseases of dogs include Transmissible Veneral Tumor (T.V.T.) orchitis, scrotal dermatitis, dystochia, vaginitis, pyometra and metritis. T.V.T., Orchitis and scrotal dermatitis in sequence has been shown by some researchers to be the commonest occurring among reproductive conditions in dogs^{5,2,3}. The reproductive diseases especially of exotic breeds in United Kingdom are a major concern to dog breeders and Veterinarians because of their high value. This study was conducted to determine the prevalence of reproductive cases in dogs reported in clinics at Benin city Edo State, Nigeria.

Material and Methods

Records of reproductive cases covering a period of four years (1992-1995) were collected from the clinical diagnostic records of the Government Veterinary Clinic, Petnogbe Veterinary Clinic, Echo Veterinary Clinics And Diagnostic Centre, and Petcare veterinary services all based in Benin city, the Edo State Capital. The different rates of diseases and conditions were calculated in percentages. The difference between paired means were determined using the least significant differences.

Result

147 cases were presented to the clinics under the period of study. Of all the cases presented 78 cases (71.60%) of castration ranks the highest, followed by orchitis and scrotal dermatitis with 9 cases each (8.26%) in male dogs. Transmissible Veneral Tumor Disease (T.V.T.) rank the highest among cases presented in female dogs with 9 cases 23.68%. Only one T.V.T. case occurred in the male (Table (1)).

The occurrence of T.V.T. cases in both male and female dogs does not significantly differ (i.e. $p > 0.4$) from the occurrence of pyometra and Abortion in female dogs. On the other hand the occurrence of T.V.T. cases in both male and female dogs significantly differ from the occurrence of orchitis and Scrotal dermatitis in male dogs with a critical ratio value of 0.34 which is less than the table value of 95%.

Disease	Males	Females	Total
Paraphimosis	3.(2.75)	-	3
Orchitis	9 (8.26)	-	9
Vaginitis	-	4(10.52)	4
Balanitis	4 (3.67)	-	4
Mastitis	-	1 (2.63)	1
Scrotal dermatitis	9 (8.26)	-	9
Pyometra	-	2(5.26)	2
T.V.T.	1 (0.92)	9 (23.68)	8
Breast tumor	-	1 (2.63)	1
Prostitis	1 (0.92)	-	1
Renal Calculi	1 (0.92)	-	1
Paturient paresis	-	1 (2.63)	1
Cystitis	1 (0.92)	-	1
Urinary Incontinence	1 (0.92)	-	1
Ovarian Cyst	-	1 (2.63)	49
Sub total	30	19	49
Conditions/intervention			
Castration	78 (71.6)	-	78
Estrous	-	4 (10.53)	4
Pregnancy	-	6 (15.79)	6
Ovarectomy	-	1 (2.63)	1
Scrotal laceration	1 (0.92)	-	1
Whelping	-	1 (2.63)	1
Maternal rejection of puppies	-	1 (2.63)	1
Abortion	-	4 (0.52)	4
Dystochia	-	2 (5.26)	2
Sub total	79	19	98
Grand Total	109	38	147

(%) = % of all cases

Table 1; Occurrence of reproductive disease and conditions in both male and female dogs

Discussion

Although according to Zenjanis (1970), the female partner receives most attention in reproduction, this study is at variance with this statement because the frequency of male cases was higher. The high number dogs presented for castration must be due to the fact that owners usually find it difficult to confine their male dogs and also to avoid sexually transmitted diseases. This study has further revealed that T.V.T., orchitis and scrotal dermatitis are common diseases in dogs in Edo State. The high prevalence of T.V.T. in female dogs in this study is contrary to the observations⁴ that there seems to be no sex pre- dilection in the occurrence of T.V.T. This finding agrees with the reports where out of 65 cases of T.V.T., 64.8% were females while 35.4% were males. However, this result may be due to the fact that castration accounts for 71.6% of the male cases (Table 1),

Therefore, this could have reduced the incidence of T.V.T. in the males because T.V.T. is a disease of sexually matured dogs . Alsowith castration, sexually activity is eliminated. It can also be deduced that sexual maturity and activity are the only predisposing factors to T.V.T. in males in Edo State.

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