

Retrospective Study of Bite Wounds of Dogs in Korea

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Introduction: Bite wounds can range from minor to extremely complex wounds. No standard protocol is available for the treatment of bite wounds in dogs. The principles of overall wound care and adequate debridement are widely accepted. The aim of this study is to describe and characterize bite wounds in Korea and to determine the relationship between the type of injury and the outcome.

Material and methods: The medical records of 69 dogs with history of bite wounds, in the years 1999 and 2006, were reviewed. Information obtained from these files included the general statistics of the patients (sex, age, breed, weight), time of injury, time lag from injury to admission, body areas wounded, therapeutic regime used, caused animals, and mortality rates. Data were compared between different weight groups, different sexes, and according to the outcome.

Results: Male dogs (61%) were more frequently bitten than females. The weight distribution of the dog population was varied 41% for small, 16% for medium and 17% for large dogs. The median age was 2.6 year (range 1-12 years). The distribution of bite wound injuries over the year was recorded with peaks in April (13%), March (12%), August (12%) and September (10%). The most common regions of injury were the head (22), forelimbs (17), hindlimbs (15), abdomen (15), thorax (14), neck (14). Although many records have not enough informations about prognosis, mortality tends to be increased in cases of thoracic or abdominal injury.

Clinical relevance: The present report about the prevalence of bite wound in Korea is intended to use as a reference data in veterinary practice.

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