computer-assisted analysis (CASA) of motility were carried out on all of the above described fractions as well as in the initial ejaculate.

Results: Percentage of morphological abnormalities showed no significant difference among the different fractions obtained by swim-up, while the percentage of viability was significantly lower in F2, F3 and F4. Sperm cells concentration showed increasing values from the top to the bottom of the swim-up tube. Focusing on CASA analyses, all fractions showed the presence of 4 different sperm subpopulations. Of these, sperm from subpopulation 3 showed the highest percentage of cells with hyperactive, capacitation-like motion characteristics. The highest percentage of sperm included in Subpopulation 3 was observed in F2 (53% of the total motile sperm in the fraction), with percentages only slightly lower in F3 (47%) and F4 (43%). Concomitantly, the percentage of capacitation-like CTC staining was significantly ($p < 0.05$) higher when compared with the other fractions in F2 (93.9%) and F3 (81.3%).

Conclusions: The application of swim-up together with IVC does not allow to physically split the separate motile sperm subpopulations present in a dog ejaculate. Meanwhile, the combined analysis of results showed that the greater percentages of sperm with capacitation-like characteristics were mainly distributed among fractions F2 and F3. In conclusion, the combination of IVC with a swim up technique allows us to obtain an enriched fraction of capacitated sperm from dog samples, facilitating thus the study of sperm capacitation in this species.

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059 | Gonadectomy of dogs and cats in france: Motivations and knowledge of the owners of male and female pets

S Chastant; J Dafflon; P Ronsin

Neocare, National Veterinary School of Toulouse, Toulouse, France
E-mail: s.chastant@envt.fr

Introduction and aim: In France, around 70% cats (males and females), 17% male dogs and 40% female dogs are neutered [1]. The aims of this work were i) to describe the motivations of the owners to ask for the neutering of their pet, ii) to understand the ways through which the owners collected information about this surgery and iii) to evaluate their knowledge about the indications and long term complications.

Materials and methods: A questionnaire was distributed to dog and cat owners asking for a consultation to get their animal neutered at Toulouse National Veterinary School. On a voluntary basis, the owners filled the questionnaire during the waiting period before the consultation, before any discussion with vets, vet students or nurses. Over the study period, 101 questionnaires were collected for tomcats, 25 for male dogs, 73 for queens and 95 for bitches.

Results: Tomcats were aged 10 months (±9.4; mean ± SEM; from 3 to 61 months), much younger than male dogs (27.6 ± 27.5 months; from 6 to 100 months). Mean age was 12.1 months (± 9.8; 4 to 88 months) for queens and 19 months (± 18.3) for bitches (from 5 to 100 months), with respectively 47% and 60% of females pubertal. Respectively 15% and 7% of the owners did not whether the female was pubertal or not. Among pubertal females, 38% queens and 61% bitches had free access outside out of surveillance; 33% queens and 61% des bitches were in frequent contact with a non neutered male. Only 7.4% queens and 4% bitches were previously treated by progestagens; 13% queens and 8% bitches had already been pregnant (16 mismatings out of 19). For a low proportion of owners (15% bitches; 17% queens) believes that pregnancy is positive for the global welfare of their female pet.

About the way they searched information about neutering, 27.2% of owners declared to not have looked for before the consultation, 35.4% previously discussed with a vet, 16% collected data on the website of a vet clinic and 21.4% elsewhere on the internet.

The main motivations of owners were: in tomcats, avoiding urine marking (33%), roaming and accidents (23.2%) and reproduction (18.4%); in male dogs, avoid roaming and accidents (26.6%), suppress fertility (20.2%) and decrease aggressive behaviors against other animals (10.5%). The two motivations for neutering of a queen was to avoid the management of pregnancy, queening and litter (47.6%) or estrus (13.6%). The owners of bitches were motivated by the prevention of pregnancy (27%), of mammary tumors (13.4%), and for a global positive impact on health (9.4%).

Regarding potential negative side effects, between 50 and 80% of owners declared not to be aware of the effect of neutering on their relative risk, with the exception of overweight: 77% of male owners and 58% of female owners were informed from the increased risk after neutering. Among the owners having an opinion, 48% are convinced that neutering decreases the risk for prostatic tumor, 30% for other prostatic diseases; the risk for urolithiasis was believed to be decreased by 9% of tomcat owners and increased by 4%. Only 14% of bitch owners were aware about an increased risk for urinary incontinence, 26% for the global risk of neoplasia; only 50% knew about the protective risk on mammary tumors, uterine infections and pseudocyesis.

Conclusions: Pet owners are far from well informed about the consequences of gonadectomy on the animal health. Precise information needs to be provided, for which the vet remains the main source, in direct or through a website. Taking into account the recent epidemiological data on the health impact of neutering [1, 2], preneutering consultation needs to be informative for owners in order to get a real informed consent.

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