

Caseload of final year veterinary students: Collecting evidence



The University of
Nottingham

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CENTRE FOR EVIDENCE-BASED
VETERINARY MEDICINE
Putting research into practice

- ❖ Final year veterinary students at The University of Nottingham undertake a series of rotations through various veterinary disciplines and species-specific practices prior to graduating and entering the profession
- ❖ In a community-based education model where students undertake rotations through Clinical Associate practices, it is difficult to assess the caseload seen by students during rotations. It is important to ensure they have had the opportunity to participate in many facets of veterinary practice during their final year of training
- ❖ There is very little published information outlining the types of cases commonly presented to veterinary surgeons in the UK, which makes determining whether final year students are seeing the appropriate caseload difficult
- ❖ Documentation of the cases seen by students is a way of assessing rotation content, and additionally adds to the evidence-base in veterinary medicine on the common conditions seen in practice

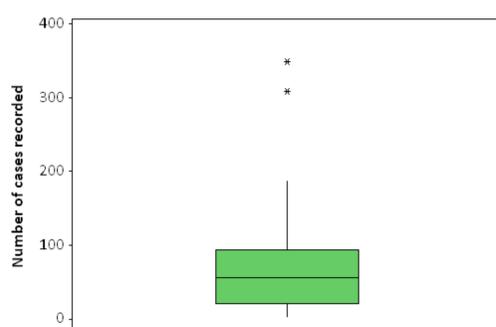
Methods:

Final year veterinary students at the School of Veterinary Medicine and Science at The University of Nottingham were asked to voluntarily record information on cases they were involved in during rotations.

This was done using a basic clinical coding booklet, and an electronic database located within an online site already used by students for general communication, feedback and assessment whilst on rotations.

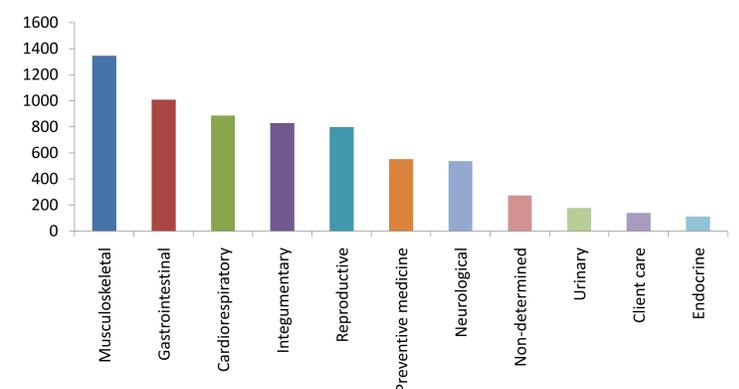
Seventy eight of 87 final year students recorded case information electronically, with a total of 5432 cases recorded between May 2010 and February 2011.

The data were not normally distributed, with a median of 57 cases recorded per student (IQR 23-93).

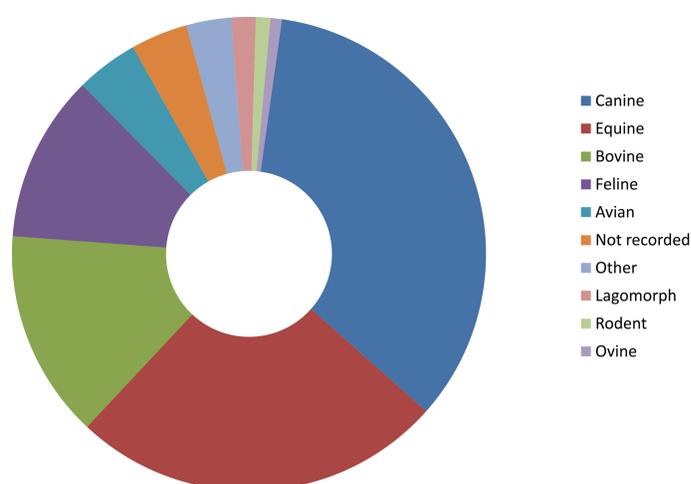


Of the cases recorded detailing diagnoses (n=2568/5432; 48%), most did not state that a definitive diagnosis had been reached (n=1892; 74%).

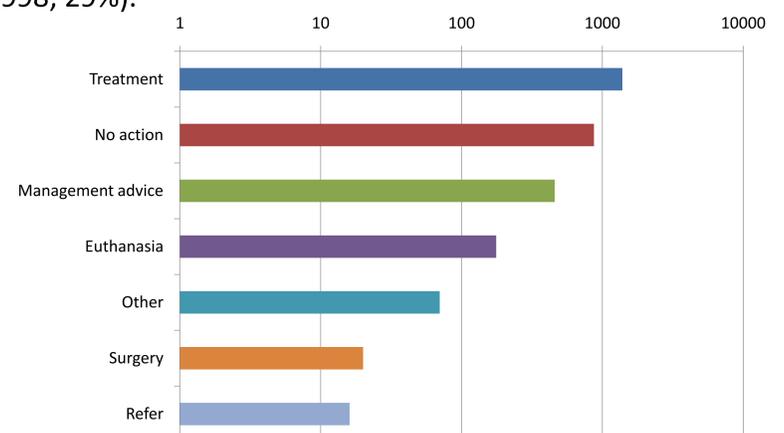
Of the total number of entries for body system (n=6642), the majority of recorded cases involved the musculoskeletal (20%), gastrointestinal (15%) and cardiorespiratory (13%) systems.



Of the total entries for species (n=5432), the majority of cases involved canines (34%), followed by equines (25%) and bovines (14%).



Of the recorded cases selecting one of the outcome options (n=2998/5432; 55%), the majority of cases resulted in some form of treatment (n=1388/2998; 46%), followed most commonly by no treatment (n=870/2998; 29%).



Conclusion:

These results show that a broad range of cases involving a variety of body systems and species were recorded by most final year veterinary students during their rotations.

The information here adds to the limited knowledge base on what vets are commonly presented with in veterinary practice and how these cases are managed.

More detailed information is being collected as part of the research conducted by the Centre for Evidence-based Veterinary Medicine on cases seen in veterinary practice and conditions seen commonly by veterinary surgeons in the UK.

Acknowledgements:

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