

Dogslife: An owner's perspective

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Introduction

- A cohort study of UK based, Kennel Club registered (KCUK) Labrador Retrievers born from 1st January 2010
- Recruitment began when website went live on 1st July 2010
- Currently 3400+ dogs, 3300+ owners
- Data collected online at www.dogslife.ac.uk
- But does owner reported data reflect each dog's health?

Materials & Methods

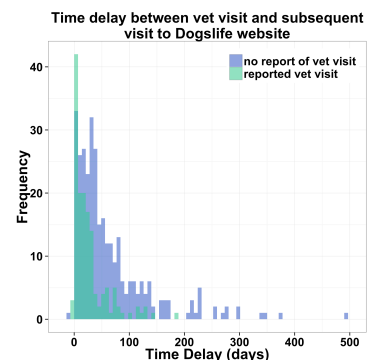
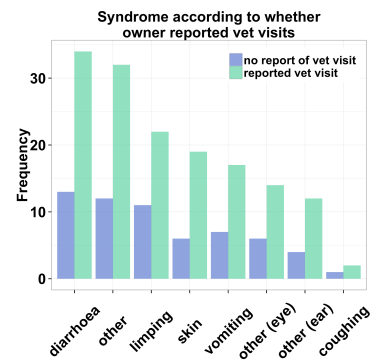
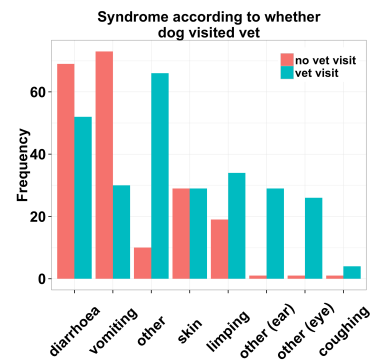
- Online questionnaire asks whether their dog has had any of the following problems since the owner last visited

Dogslife:

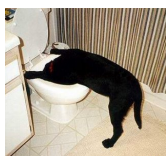
- Vomiting
- Diarrhoea
- Coughing
- Scratching themselves*
- Licking or chewing themselves*
- Limping or lameness
- Any 'other' problems or illnesses?
- Information collected about owner-perceived negative health events (syndromes) whether dog requires a vet visit or not
- Vet records requested from 290 randomly sampled owners
- Vet recorded syndromes compared with Dogslife records

Results

- 138 records obtained, associated with 131 owners
- 126 useable records
- 7 of 126 were not complete clinical histories
- 581 vet visits for 305 unique syndromes
- 218 other syndromes did not lead to a vet visit
- Diarrhoea most prevalent syndrome
- High prevalence of eye and ear problems in 'other' category



Reported Vet Visit
Median Interval 16 days (IQR = 27 days)



Unreported Vet Visit
Median Interval 39 days (IQR = 63 days)

Conclusions

- Dogslife accurately capture data on 72% of syndromes that require a vet visit
- Dogs less likely to visit vet for vomiting and diarrhoea than any other syndrome
- Under-reporting of vet visits by owners does not depend on syndrome
- Recall decay has a significant effect on reporting of vet visits

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* Categories collapsed into a single 'skin' syndrome for analysis