Gastro-Oesophageal Reflux in Dogs and Cats

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Message from the Guest Editors

Oesophagitis may increase morbidity and lead to severe oesophageal stricture, with detrimental consequences. In dogs and cats, the main cause of oesophagitis is gastro-oesophageal reflux (GOR), peri-operatively. Several factors have been identified to predispose dogs and cats to GOR, like age, type of surgical procedure, drugs used for pre-medication and/or anaesthesia, volume and acidity of gastric content, and the duration of preoperative fasting. For many years, strict preoperative fasting rules to ensure an empty stomach at induction had been a common practice. However, there is evidence that long periods of pre-anaesthetic fasting may have negative results, such as increased gastric content acidity and risk for GOR.

Another cause of oesophagitis in dogs and cats seems to be a condition analogous to the gastro-oesophageal reflux disease in humans, which is hardly diagnosed and poorly understood, but it is suspected to cause pain and suffering.

The aim of this special issue is to present up-do-date research on GOR in dogs and cats, focusing on the understanding of this condition, the clinical implication, and the possible prevention strategies.

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Special Issue

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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

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