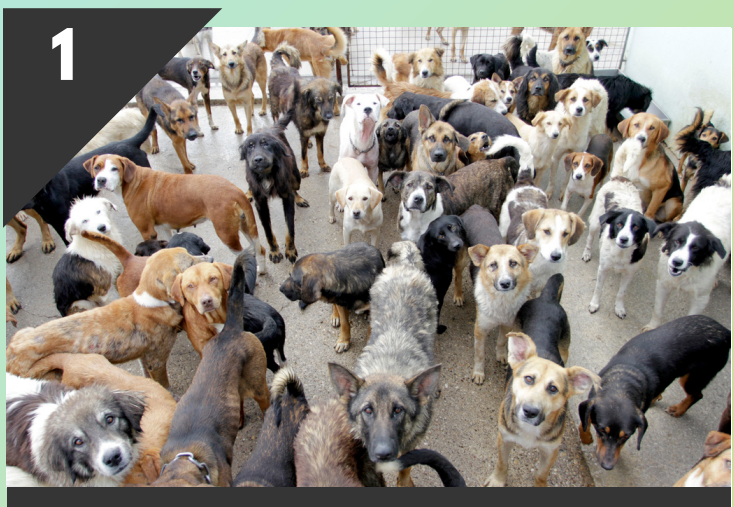
RESEARCH USING SAVSNET DATA

TEMPOROSPATIAL DISTRIBUTION AND COUNTRY OF ORIGIN OF CANINE TRANSMISSIBLE VENEREAL TUMOUR IN THE UNITED KINGDOM

Full paper published in the Veterinary Record available here

1



TVT

Transmissible venereal tumour (TVT). is spread by physical contact between dogs. Tumours typically affect the genitalia.
TVT is not considered enzootic in the UK but anecdotally cases are sometimes seen in imported dogs.

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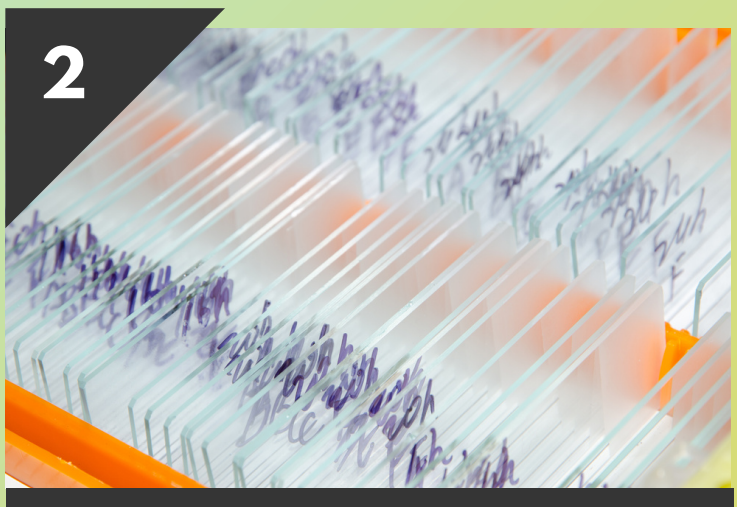

STUDY

We used laboratory data collected from SAVSNET to assess the number and geographical spread of TVT cases diagnosed in the UK between 2010 and 2019. We identified 71 confirmed to be TVT by cytology or histology.

3

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN

Cases were located across the UK, but the majority were in England.
Import status and country of origin was reported in 36 of the 71 cases (50.7%), of which the majority were reported to be from Romania (29 of 36, 81.0%). The overall number of cases was higher than expected for a non-enzootic disease.

4

TVT LOCATION

The described lesions were predominantly associated with the genitalia. In the 33 female dogs, 23 (69.7%) were reported as affecting the vagina, and seven (21.2%) the vulva. In the 35 male dogs, 18 (51.4%) were located on the penis and 14 (40.0%) on the prepuce. Other less common locations included lip, the perineum and a lymph node (one case each). Lesion location was not recorded in six cases.

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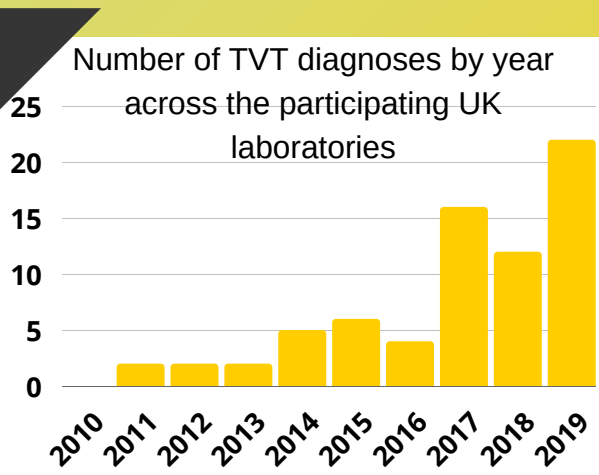

INCREASING CASES

While the total number of cases remained low, the frequency with which TVT was diagnosed increased over time, with very few cases seen prior to 2014 and the numbers increasing steadily thereafter. There was some concern that the increasing case numbers may be an artefact. A Mann-Kendall trend test was performed to assess the rate of TVT cases per 10,000 (with 95% confidence intervals) cytology or histology submissions to laboratories over the same time period. This showed a significant upward trend (z=2.78, P=0.005), which is consistent with an increasing incidence of TVT cases thereafter.

6

THANK YOU

This work would not have been possible without the diagnostic laboratories participating in SAVSNET.

We are grateful for their involvement.

“This study shows the opportunities for using SAVSNET as a surveillance tool and highlights the risk of TVT becoming established in the UK.”

Dr Danielle Gibson