

OTITIS EXTERNA IN CATS – EPIDEMIOLOGICAL STUDY

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Summary

In cats, otitis externa is frequently, this disease can affect between 2 and 10 percentage by feline case presented to consultation. Hearing parasite – *Otodectes cynotis*, is responsible for almost half cases with otitis externa in cats (1, 2). For all that, are other causes of otitis externa in cats: inflammation, other infections. By 20-30% of auricle chronic disease, stay unknown (3, 4). Generally, causes of otitis externa in cat are divided in three categories: elementary (parasitic infestations, fungal and mushroom infections, dermatophytes, viruses etc.); susceptibility (immunosuppressant reoviruses, systemic disease) and habitual causes, like opportunistic bacteria (4, 5, 6).

Materials and methods

Study regarding otitis externa in cat incidence, was made in September 2003- September 2004, in this time were examined 233 cats in clinics from Timisoara and Arad city and in Infectious disease clinic from Faculty of Veterinary Medicine Timisoara.

All cases were examined and obtained data were systematized in charts. Diagnosis was established by owner's information, parasitological and microbiological examination of auricle deposit.

For data systematize was used race, sex, age, disease evolution and clinical signs. The results of clinical and epidemiological study are shown in chart 1, 2, 3.

Results and discussions

In this study were examined 233 cats from 7 breed, including European breed. Otitis externa frequency was 18.02% and it localization was unilateral or bilateral. After inflammation points, otitis externa were by two types: otitis externa with erythematous ceruminosus and with 73.80% frequency and suppurative otitis externa, with 26.19% frequency. Breed more affected are British shorthair (75%), European (73.33%) and Birmanese (70%), like is shown in chart 3.

Age which were diagnosed more otitis externa was between 1 and 5 years and the sex wasn't have high influence on disease evolution. Females were diagnosed in 54.76% by cases and males in 45.23% by cases, like is shown in chart 2. More affected races were: British shorthair (22.22%), Persian (21.42%) and Blue Russian (20%). These aspects are shown in chart 1.

Conclusions

More affected cat races by otitis externa are: British shorthair (22.22%), Persian (21.42%) and Blue Russian (20%).

High incidence of the disease is found between 1 and 5 years age, respectively females are more affected than males.

Clinical test disclosed that the otitis externa with cerumen and erythematoses are more frequency than suppurative otitis externa. This observation can be distinguishing the interest of cat's owners, in those behaviors.

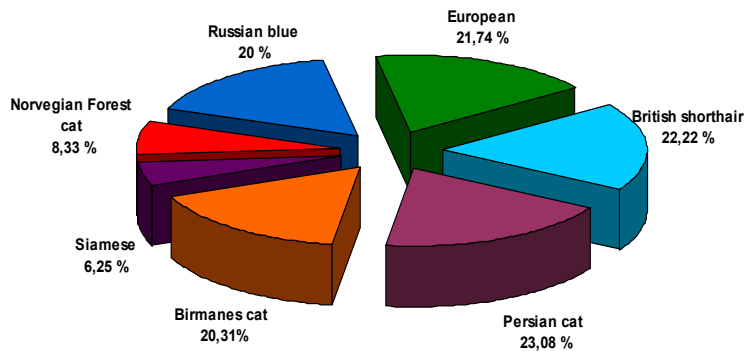


Chart 1. Otitis externa distribution in cats, beyond breed

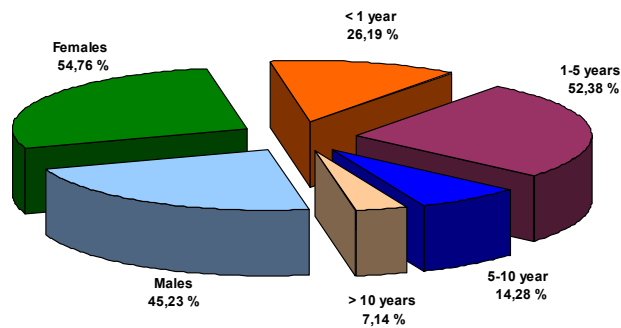


Chart 2. Otitis externa distribution in cats, beyond sex and year

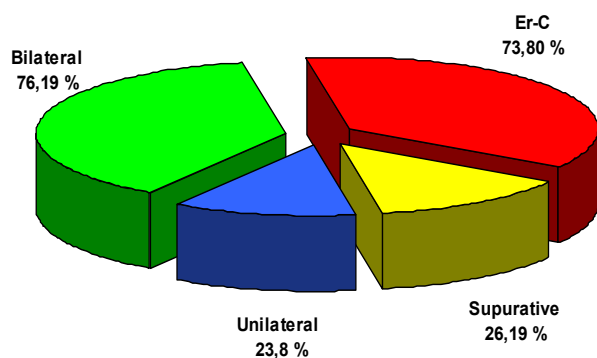


Chart 3. Results of clinical and otoscopic examinations in cats

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