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Prospective evaluation of dogs with congenital heart diseases - one year study

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This study was taken with the objective to assess the incidence, breed and sex predispositions, and type of congenital heart defects in dogs in the study population. Cases presented with the history of dyspnoea, cyanosis, exercise intolerance, syncope, ascites, and failure to thrive were included in the study. Congenital heart defects were identified based on physical, haemato-biochemical, radiography, electrocardiography and echocardiographic examination. In 431 dogs, diagnosed with heart diseases, 14 (3.14%) dogs were suffering from congenital heart malformations. Among congenital heart defects, single defects were present in 8 cases (57.14%) and 2 concurrent defects in 6 cases (42.85%). The most common defects were tricuspid dysplasia (35%), mitral dysplasia (20%), and 15% each of patent ductus arteriosus, pulmonic stenosis and ventricular septal defect. The age at diagnosis ranged from two months to 9 years, with a median of 12 months. Overall there was more female (9F, 64.28%) predisposition than males (5M, 35.71%). Although single dogs per breed were affected by various defects but breed-related predilection was not observed in this study. In conclusion, the most common congenital heart defect was tricuspid dysplasia and there was more female predisposition than males. Concurrent heart defects represented a substantial percentage of cases, and their identification depends upon accurate and complete examinations.