

The causes of gait disturbance in hind limbs (2005 – 2008): A retrospective study

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Purpose: Generally, gait disturbance arises from disorders of musculoskeletal systems and/or nervous systems. This study was performed to investigate the prevalence of diseases in dogs and cats that presented with gait disturbance of hind limbs.

Materials and Methods: A retrospective review was carried out of 789 dogs and cats managed at Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital of Seoul National University between January 2005 and April 2008.

Results: As the cause of hind limbs gait disturbance, musculoskeletal diseases were 441(55.9%) and neurological diseases were 332(42.0%). In musculoskeletal diseases, fractures were 100(22.7%), and articular diseases were 341(77.3%). In neurological diseases, cervical or thoracolumbar intervertebral disk diseases were 231(69.8%), brain lesions were 38(11.5%), spondylosis deformans were 26(7.9%), atlantoaxial instability were 17(5.1%), fibrocartilaginous embolism were 8(2.4%), cauda equina syndrome were 4(1.2%), peripheral nerve injury were 4(1.2%), and meningomyelitis were 3(0.9%). And the neoplaseia of musculoskeletal or neurological system were 8(2.4%). Also breed, sex, age distribution of each major disease or disorder was review, so relationship between breed, sex, age distribution and each major disease or disorder was evaluated.

Conclusion: Articular diseases and intervertebral disk diseases were the common causes of hind limbs gait disturbance. Specific diseases were related to breed or age factors.

Key words: gait disturbance, hind limb, dog, cat, prevalence, breed, age

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