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Gastrocanis - an internet-based epidemiologic surveillance tool

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The gastrointestinal tract inflammation is a frequent event in the veterinary clinical practice of small animals and the main symptoms are a sudden and often serious manifestation of sharp vomit and diarrhea, but animals may also present other symptoms like dehydration, depression, lethargy, loss of appetite, abdominal pain, borborygmi and anorexia. When symptoms improve 24 to 48 hours after their start it is considered to be an acute gastroenteritis, on the other hand if the symptoms persist or are not resolved by treatment, a chronic gastroenteritis is present. The gastrointestinal disorders have several origins namely, parasites, bacteria, viruses and protozoa and some of which are zoonotic, which raises concerns on public health.. The purpose of the present work is to describe the value of implementing the real-time web-based monitoring system GASTROCANIS in Portugal. This system of real-time participation of canine gastroenteritis will help in the characterization of the gastrointestinal infections of the dogs describing them in a time and geographic pattern, which will result in an important tool in helping further detailed studies about the epidemiology of gastrointestinal diseases.

Key-words: dog; canine gastroenteritis; GASTROCANIS; diarrhea; vomit.