



CENTRO DE NEGÓCIOS TRANSFRONTEIRICO

ELVAS, 25, 26 E 27 DE OUTUBRO DE 2013

**PAPERS IN CONFERENCE
PROCEEDINGS**

029. NURSING CARE IN GASTRIC DILATATION IN DOGS

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Abstract:

- INTRODUCTION AND OBJECTIVES:

Gastric Dilatation is a potentially fatal gastrointestinal pathology caused by aerophagy. It is mainly caused by rapid consumption of food, excitation or exercising near the time of feeding, which promotes the entrance of air into the stomach (Robbins et al, 2011).

With this work we aim to emphasize the care given by veterinary nurses in this pathology.

- RESULTS

Gastric dilatation is a pathology of multifactorial etiology. It is frequently found in large or giant breeds of dogs, such as Doberman Pinscher, German Shepherd, Great Dane, St. Bernard, and rarely in small dogs and cats. It's potentially fatal, which makes it an emergency. (Jones *et al*, 1997; Porter, 2011; Johnson *et al*, 2006).

The main diagnostic methods are the physical exam and the x-ray. Laboratory tests and an electrocardiogram are also advised.

The prescribed treatment is done with the goal of eliminating the dilatation, through the use of several techniques, namely gastric intubation, and to stabilize the

patient. If volvulus is also present, the stomach must be repositioned correctly and sutured to the abdominal wall, a procedure called gastropexy, so that if a new case of gastric dilatation occurs, volvulus will not arise (Robbins *et al*, 2011).

- **CONCLUSIONS:**

A veterinary nurse has to be able to recognize a gastric dilatation, when it is present. He or she, should also be able to inform the patient's owner about the etiology, the patient's progress, and prophylactic methods, in a succinct and correct manner, in order to reduce the possibility of a recurrence (Welsh & Orpet, 2002).

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

FCT e CI&DETS (Pest – OE/CEU/UI4016/2011).

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