because of coexisting demodicosis, but it remained unproven.

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The use of deslorelin to promote hair regrowth in dogs with alopecia X

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Alopecia X affects dogs such as Nordic breeds, Pomeranians and miniature poodles. Its pathogenesis is not completely understood; it may be different from breed to breed. Treatment with hormones, mitotane, neutering and trilostane has given inconsistent results. Deslorelin (Suprelorin; Virbac, Bury St Edmunds, UK) is a nonsteroidal, peptide-based contraceptive implant containing a GnRH agonist, licensed for the induction of temporary infertility in healthy, noncastrated adult male dogs. Whether it exerts any role on the hormonal receptors at the skin/hair follicle levels is unknown. Our aim was to study whether the deslorelin implant promoted hair regrowth in dogs with alopecia X. Three chow chows, two keeshonds, one Chihuahua, one Pomeranian and one toy poodle were diagnosed with alopecia X, after ruling out other causes of alopecia by performing routine dermatological tests, an adrenal–gonadal and thyroid hormonal evaluation and skin biopsy. All dogs received a subcutaneous implant of deslorelin (4.7 mg per dog), and all treated dogs showed a progressive and profuse regrowth of hair within 2–4 months. Adverse effects were not noted, other than a decreased testicular size in intact males. Our findings suggest that deslorelin could be used to promote hair regrowth in dogs with alopecia X. This therapeutic approach may provide a more cost-effective treatment, as it appeared to be well tolerated in this group of dogs. Further studies are required to determine the long-term efficacy and safety of deslorelin for treatment of alopecia X in dogs.

Source of funding: Self-funded.

Conflict of interest: None declared.

A cross-sectional survey of leishmaniosis in clinically normal and sick cats in Greece with indirect immunofluorescence antibody test and enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay

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Cats living in areas where canine leishmaniosis is endemic may become exposed to the parasite and develop anti-*Leishmania* antibodies. The aims of the present survey were to evaluate a population of clinically normal cats and cats with various diseases living in an endemic area for the presence of anti-*Leishmania* IgG and IgM, to compare the results of indirect immunofluorescence antibody test (IFAT) and enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) for anti-*Leishmania* IgG and to investigate for possible associations between seropositivity to *Leishmania* spp. and several possible risk factors. Fifty clinically normal cats and 50 cats with various diseases were screened for anti-*Leishmania* IgG by IFAT and ELISA and for anti-*Leishmania* IgM by IFAT. Cut-off values for either test were established using serum samples from 25 clinically normal cats and 50 sick cats from a nonendemic area (TX, USA). Low levels of anti-*Leishmania* IgG were detected by IFAT in 10/100 (five clinically normal and five sick cats) and by ELISA in 1/100 (one IFAT-negative clinically normal cat), whereas IgM antibodies were present in a single clinically normal cat. Seropositivity for *Leishmania* was not associated with signalment, living conditions or health status or with seropositivity to feline leukaemia virus, feline immunodeficiency virus, feline coronavirus, *Toxoplasma gondii* and *Bartonella henselae*. The low serum levels of anti-*Leishmania* IgG and the discordant results between IFAT and ELISA may challenge the validity of using serology in epidemiological studies in cats. The reasons for this discordance in serological results must be explored further.

Sources of funding: European Union (European Social Fund; ESF) and Greek national funds through the Operational Program Education and Lifelong Learning of the National Strategic Reference Framework (NSRF)-Research Funding Program: Heracleitus II-Investing in knowledge society through the European Social Fund.
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SHORT COMMUNICATIONS

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None declared