Pyometra is a common diestral disease in adult intact bitches characterized by genital and systemic illness with a variety of clinical and pathological findings and inflammatory uterine accumulation (Johnston et al., 2001). It is assumed to be caused by an exaggerated response to progesterone stimulation (Feldman and Nelson, 1996). In bitches with endotoxemic and septic pyometra events, different organ systems and functions including homeostasis are impaired (Tanja et al., 2006). This retrospective study was undertaken to analyze the incidence of pyometra in different breeds of bitches with its susceptible age.

A total of 278 cases of pyometra were recorded. The results of the present study showed that the pyometra were more common in Spitz (39.56 percent), followed by Labrador (12.94 percent), Alsatian (11.87 percent), non-descript dogs (11.51 percent), Doberman Pinscher (7.19 percent), Boxer (3.95 percent), Dachshund and Pomeranian (2.87 percent each), Rottweiler (2.51 percent), Lhasa apso (2.15 percent), Beagle and Dalmatian (1.79 percent each) and less than 1 percent incidence in Golden retriever, Cocker spaniel, poodles and Irish setter. The present study revealed highest incidence of pyometra in small breed (spitz), which might be due to its susceptibility to diestral hormonal disorder or higher population of this breed or it may carry a higher genetic predisposition for pyometra than other breeds. In general, breed differences may reflect true genetic differences or merely constitute a reflection of the different life spans in different breeds. If true genetic differences in predilection exist, the possibility of instituting breeding programmes to control the disease could be considered.

Analysis of data for age wise incidence was more in seven to eight years old (17.26 percent) followed by three to five years (16.18 percent), nine to ten years (14.74 percent), eight to nine years (13.66 percent), under three years (12.94 percent), above ten and five to seven years (12.58 percent each). Sokolowski (1997) reported that the pyometra affects bitches under three years of age. Romagnoli and Johnson (1991) observed that pyometra occurred in intact bitches older than 5 years of age. Egenvall et al, 1999 observed on an average 23-24% of all bitches gets pyometra before 10 years of age. The authors also indicated that certain breeds have a genetic pre-disposition for pyometra.
In the present study, 58.24 percent of the bitches affected were above seven years of age. This finding was in accordance with the findings of Feldman and Nelson (1996), who observed that pyometra occurred mostly in bitches of more than six years of age. Wheaton et al., (1987), reported that not only the age that leads to an increased risk for pyometra in a healthy animal, but also other concurrent diseases increases with age, thus increasing the risk.

This study recorded that pyometra can occur even in young bitches below three years of age. Higher incidence was noticed in small breeds of bitches. The mortality rate for pyometra is 3-5 percent.

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REFERENCES


