

Obesity

Obesity is an important part of veterinary medicine, and many practices hold obesity clinics. The PDSA launched its "Long Live Pets" project to dog owners at Crufts and to the veterinary profession at BSAVA congress (last week). The first focus is on the issue of obesity.

Within the last year or so two drugs have been licensed for the treatment of obesity. Both work by blocking the absorption of fat from the intestine.

Mitratapide (Yarvitan, Janssen) is licensed for two 21 day courses with a period of 14 days without treatment in between.

Dirlotapide (Slentrol, Pfizer) is licensed for up to 12 months use.

Both are recommended for use as an aid to management of overweight and obesity in adult dogs. To be used as part of an overall weight management programme which also includes appropriate dietary changes and exercise.

Unsurprisingly, treated animals rapidly regain weight following cessation of treatment when the diet is not restricted. Time for a behavioural approach to obesity, I think. (By which I mean foraging for food, puzzle feeders etc.) So for anybody looking to introduce yourself to local veterinary practices, how about offering to talk to the veterinary nurses or whoever runs obesity clinics about a behavioural approach to weight loss? Perhaps provide a handout with a few ideas, and all your contact details on the top?

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