

CENTRE FOR EVIDENCE-BASED VETERINARY MEDICINE
Putting research into practice

Advising Breeders on Pedigree Dog Breeding: 'Do Vets need more Information?'



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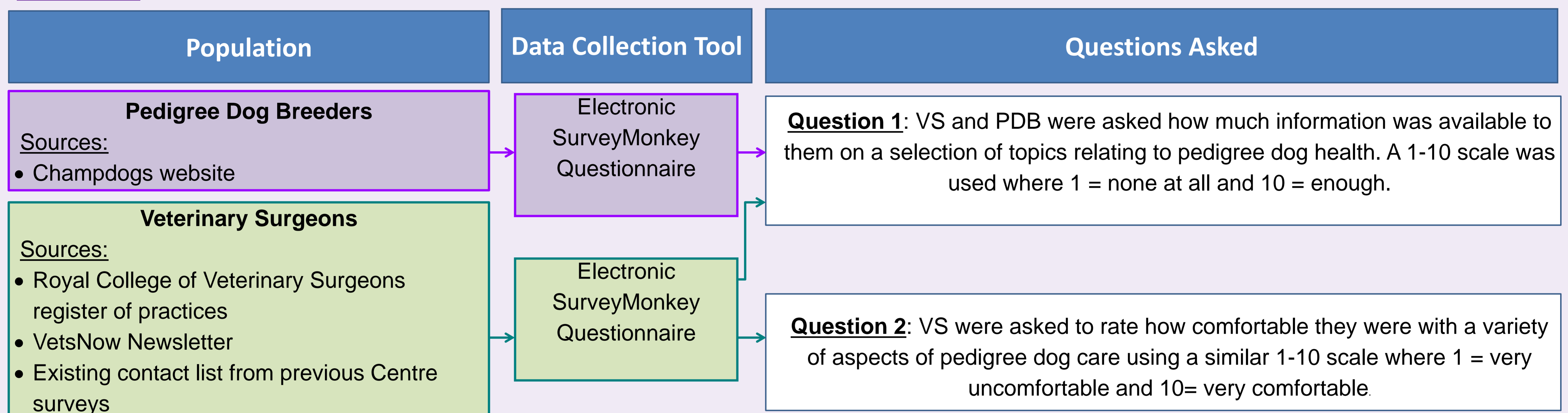


Introduction: Pedigree dog health has become an increasingly controversial topic in recent years due to the welfare implications caused by some selective breeding practices.

Study Aims:

- To determine how much information veterinary surgeons (VS) felt was available to them on pedigree dog breeding and inherited diseases when compared to pedigree dog breeders (PDB)
- To identify how comfortable VS feel when dealing with various aspects of pedigree dog care.

Methods:



Results:

- A total of 150 VS and 351 PDB returned useable questionnaires (useable response rates: VS: 2.6-25.1% [varied between different distributions] and PDB: 13.8%).

Table 1: VS and PDB responses to Question 1.

| Topic | Rated information available | |
|--|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| | Veterinary Surgeons (n=149) | Pedigree Dog Breeders (n=334) |
| | Median (Min, Max) | Median (Min, Max) |
| Selection of suitable pedigree dogs for breeding | 5 (1,10) | 8 (1,10) |
| Hereditary disease testing for pedigree dogs | 5 (1,10) | 8 (1,10) |
| Breed-associated hereditary diseases | 6 (1,10) | 8 (1,10) |

Table 2: VS and PDB responses to Question 2.

| Aspect of pedigree dog care | Rated comfort in managing task | |
|--|--------------------------------|--|
| | Veterinary Surgeons (n=150) | |
| | Median (Min, Max) | |
| Dealing with PDB in practice | 7 (1,10) | |
| Discussing breeding options with PDB clients | 6 (1,10) | |
| Advising puppy buyers on pedigree dog health | 8 (1,10) | |
| Diagnosing hereditary diseases in pedigree dogs | 7 (1,10) | |
| Managing hereditary diseases in pedigree dogs | 7 (1,10) | |
| Advising on screening programmes for canine hereditary disease | 6 (1,10) | |

Conclusions:

- Data indicate that VS feel less information is available to them on aspects of pedigree dog health than their PDB counterparts do.
- This may explain why VS are less comfortable with advising PDB clients on the breeding and screening of their dogs than they are with giving general health advice, diagnosing and managing health complaints.
- Further investigation is needed to establish whether better provision of information is required for VS and if this would positively influence vet-breeder interaction in the consult room.

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