Anal Sac Disorders (ASD) in dogs

Every dog has two small sacs inside the anus producing a liquid that is normally squeezed naturally onto the faeces. Sometimes these sacs become blocked and can fill with liquid causing discomfort to these dogs. This is called anal sac impaction.

**HEALTH STUDY RESULTS**

Number of dogs in study: 104,212

Percentage of dogs with ASD: 4.4%

Most common forms of ASD recorded:

- Impaction: 30%
- Inflammation: 25%
- Abscess: 5%

Owners of high-risk breeds should be alert to the signs of ASD in their dog, such as scooting and paying extra attention to their rear end. Please discuss further with your veterinarian.

**CONCLUSIONS:**

ASD is a common problem in dogs, affecting over 4% of dogs in the UK.

ASD is an important welfare condition in dogs, with more than 1 in 10 cases requiring pain relief for the condition.

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CLICK TO READ

O’Neill et al. (2021) “Non-neoplastic anal sac disorders in UK dogs: epidemiology and management aspects of a research-neglected syndrome” Veterinary Record

**HEALTH STUDY RESULTS**

Relative breed risk compared to crossbreeds:

- Cavalier King Charles Spaniel: 3.3 x
- King Charles Spaniel: 2.6 x
- Cockapoo: 2.1 x
- Shih-tzu: 1.5 x
- Bichon Frise: 1.4 x
- Cocker Spaniel: 1.7 x
- Labrador Retriever: 1.8 x
- Border Collie: 2.0 x
- Staffordshire Bull Terrier: 2.7 x
- Lurcher: 3.4 x
- German Shepherd Dog: 3.3 x
- Boxer: 3.3 x

Antibiotics were prescribed in 20.2% ASD cases and pain relief in 12.0% ASD cases.

The anal sacs were surgically removed in 0.9% of affected dogs.

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