

A cross-sectional study to estimate prevalence of periodontal disease in a population of dogs (*Canis familiaris*) in commercial breeding facilities in Indiana and Illinois

The aims of this study were: 1) to estimate the prevalence and characterize the severity of periodontal disease (PD) in dogs housed in commercial breeding (CB) facilities and 2) to characterize PD preventative care utilized by breeders.

Methods

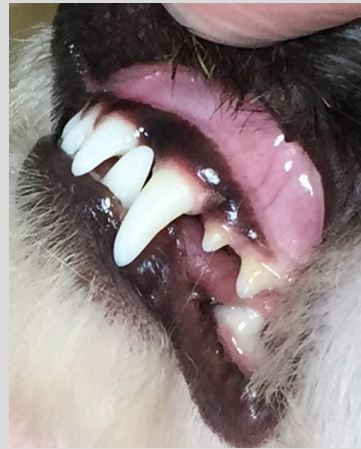


445 dogs representing 42 breeds underwent a visual oral exam

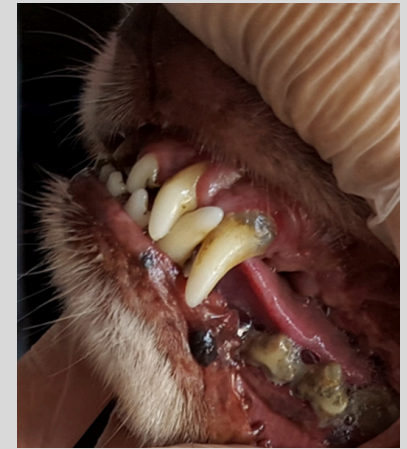


24 CB facilities completed a questionnaire about preventative care

Severity of PD was scored from 0 (no disease) to IV (severe disease)



No disease



Severe disease

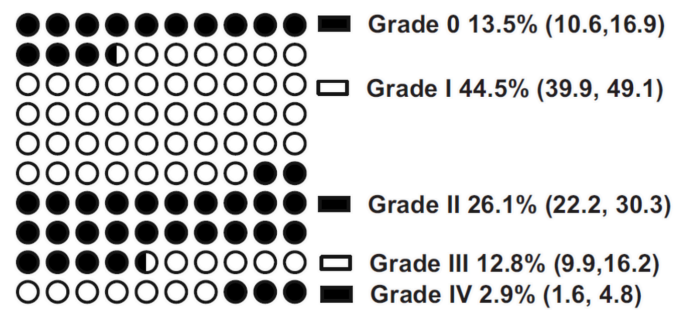
Results

Adding chlorhexadine to drinking water had **no effect**

Providing a chew item **decreased** risk of PD

Non-professional dental scaling (e.g. 'hand scale') **increased** risk of PD

Prevalence Estimates by PD Grade
Overall Prevalence 86.3% (82.9, 89.3)



Total = 445

Research Takeaways

Dental health in dogs in CB facilities is similar to that of dogs in homes
~16% of dogs had severe (Stage III or IV) PD

Provision of chew items is an effective way to decrease the risk of PD