
Format: Abstract

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Dogs with macroadenomas have lower body temperature and heart rate than dogs with microadenomas.

Benchekroun G¹, Desquilbet L², Herrtage ME³, Jeffery ND⁴, Rosenberg D⁵, Granger N⁶.

Abstract

Pituitary macroadenomas compress the hypothalamus, which partly regulates heart rate and body temperature. The aim of this study was to investigate whether heart rate and/or body temperature could aid in clinically differentiating dogs with macroadenomas from dogs with microadenomas (i.e. small non-compressive pituitary mass). Two groups of dogs diagnosed with pituitary-dependent hyperadrenocorticism (i.e. Cushing's disease) were included. Heart rate and body temperature were collected on initial presentation before any procedure. Dogs with macroadenoma had a significantly lower heart rate and body temperature ($P < 0.01$) compared to dogs with microadenoma. We suggest that the combined cut-off values of 84 beats per minutes and 38.3°C in dogs with Cushing's disease, especially with vague neurological signs (nine of 12 dogs=75%), might help to suspect the presence of a macroadenoma.

KEYWORDS: Bradycardia; Canine pituitary neoplasm; Cushing's disease; Forebrain; Hypothermia

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