Treatment of Pyometra in the HQHVSN Environment

This survey is meant for clinics that perform high quality high volume spay neuter (HQHVSN) surgery of shelter and/or publically owned animals. Please answer the following questions using data from 2019 and assuming non-pandemic conditions. This survey is anonymous, although there is an option to provide an email if you are interested in participating in the second phase of this research. This email will be separated from your responses before the data is reviewed. We are interested in the information on a per-clinic basis, so please do your best to ensure that only one person responds per clinic.

* 1. Is your HQHVSN clinic associated with a shelter?
   - Yes
   - No

* 2. Is your HQHVSN clinic fixed or mobile?
   - Fixed clinic
   - Mobile clinic
   - Both

* 3. Does your HQHVSN clinic regularly charge a fee for spays and neuters, at least for some animals? Choose no if this fee is not itemized (ie if it's bundled into another, such as an adoption fee).
   - Yes
   - No
4. What is the average cost for a routine medium-sized dog spay?

5. What is the average cost for a routine cat spay?
6. Does your HQHVSN clinic also perform medical services such as treatment for common diseases? Please answer no if the ONLY medical service you perform is treatment of postoperative complications or vaccination of healthy animals.

- Yes
- No

7. What region is your clinic located in? Use https://apps.bea.gov/regional/docs/regions.cfm if you're not sure.

- Far West
- Great Lakes
- Mideast
- New England
- Plains
- Rocky Mountains
- Southeast
- Southwest
- Outside of US

8. What size metro area is your clinic located in?

- Less than 250,000
- 250,000-1,000,000
- More than 1,000,000

* 9. About how many spay/neuter surgeries does your clinic perform on a typical surgical day?


* 10. About how many spay/neuter surgeries does your clinic perform per year?


11. What is your best guess for the average range of the cost of treatment for pyometra at private practices in your community?

Low

High
12. What is your best guess for the average range of the cost of treatment for pyometra at emergency clinics in your community?

Low

High

* 13. Does your clinic treat pyometras? Please select yes even if it's only sometimes and no if it's only when they are an incidental finding.

☐ Yes

☐ No
14. In your opinion, why does your clinic not treat pyometras?
* 15. What is the approximate number of non-incidental dog pyometras your clinic treats per year? 

16. What is the approximate number of non-incidental cat pyometras your clinic treats per year? 

* 17. How disruptive is a "routine" pyometra surgery to your average HQHVSN clinic day? 
   - Not at all disruptive
   - Mildly disruptive
   - Moderately disruptive
   - Majorly disruptive

18. For non-incidental pyometras, what is the average number of days between diagnosis of the pyometra/client noting significant problems with their pet and presentation to your clinic? 

19. Estimate the percent of patients seeking treatment at your clinic for pyometra for each of these initial presentations. This is all patients referred or presenting to your clinic for treatment, regardless of whether you decide to treat them. Assume obtunded animals are minimally responsive to normal stimuli, but respond to noxious stimuli. Should sum to 100. 

   BAR/QAR 
   Depressed or non-ambulatory
   Obtunded or lateral

20. Which of these presentations do you accept for treatment, at least sometimes? Check all that apply. 
   - BAR/QAR
   - Depressed or non-ambulatory
   - Obtunded or lateral
21. For patients you do not accept for treatment, what are the most common outcomes? *Include the outcomes for referrals that you do not accept, if known. Rank in order of likelihood.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Outcome</th>
<th>Likelihood</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Euthanasia (appropriate due to poor prognosis)</td>
<td>□ Never or almost never</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Euthanasia (primarily economic)</td>
<td>□ Never or almost never</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treatment at a private practice</td>
<td>□ Never or almost never</td>
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<tr>
<td>Treatment at an emergency clinic</td>
<td>□ Never or almost never</td>
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<tr>
<td>Discharged against medical advice without treatment</td>
<td>□ Never or almost never</td>
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22. Based on the presentation at intake, what percent of patients treated for pyometra at your clinic do you estimate survive treatment for each presentation? *If you do not accept a presentation leave the text box blank for that presentation.*

<table>
<thead>
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<th>BAR/QAR</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Depressed or non-ambulatory</td>
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<tr>
<td>Obtunded or lateral</td>
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* 23. If your clinic performs pyometra surgeries for a fee, what is the average price of a medium-sized dog pyometra surgery at your clinic?

- [ ] My clinic DOES NOT perform pyometra surgeries for a fee.
- [ ] My clinic DOES perform pyometra surgeries for a fee.
24. What is the average cost of a cat pyometra surgery at your clinic?
25. Which of the following does your clinic routinely provide for patients presenting with "textbook" clinical indications of pyometra that is treated surgically with the intact uterus removed en bloc? (For example, a QAR intact 10 year old female dog with malodorous vaginal discharge, 5% dehydration, and an elevated temperature). Assume no previous diagnostics or treatments and that the patient recovers from surgery uneventfully. For shelter animals, assume that return to their kennel is when they "go home". Please answer with what is actually done, not what you believe should ideally be done. You will have an opportunity at the end of the survey to share information about anything you think we may have missed.

- IV Catheter
- IV fluid resuscitation (bolus)
- IV fluid resuscitation (fluid pump)
- SQ fluid resuscitation
- CBC
- Chemistry
- PCV/TP
- Lactate meter reading
- Hematocrit meter reading
- Bloodsmear
- Preoperative radiograph
- Preoperative ultrasound
- Perioperative antibiotics such as cefazolin
- Long lasting single-injection antibiotic such as convenia or pen-G
- Postoperative oral antibiotics
- Postoperative hospitalization for remainder of day
- Postoperative hospitalization overnight (overnight staff present)
- Postoperative hospitalization overnight (overnight staff not present)
- Swab uterine stump with antiseptic
- Culture uterine contents
- Lavage the abdomen
- Histopathology
- Perioperative blood pressure
- Perioperative capnography
If we missed any options please explain your typical protocol for this “textbook” presentation

26. Do you feel like your clinic has the resources needed to handle most of the pyometras that present to you?
   ○ Yes
   ○ No

27. Are there any other resources you would find helpful to either treat the pyometras you already see or allow you to treat additional patients with pyometra? Please only enter resources that you think would make a clinically meaningful difference in either additional cases treated or improved patient outcomes.

28. Where do your pyometra cases originate? Give answer as an approximate percentage of each category, must sum to 100.
   - Patient diagnosed and client referred by another clinic
   - Patient diagnosed by another clinic but client self-referred
   - Patient diagnosed by your clinic’s medical team
   - Client diagnosed pet and self-referred
   - Patient surrendered to the shelter because of pyometra
   - Incidental finding
   - Other
29. Does or would your clinic accept pyometra cases if referred by another clinic? If you are a shelter that accepts surrenders and sometimes/often adopts back to the original owner please consider this as a referral.

- Yes, always or almost always
- Yes, about half the time
- Yes, on occasion
- No, never
30. If a pyometra referral is accepted, what percentage of patients are seen: *(Must sum to 100)*

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<td>Same day</td>
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<td>Next day</td>
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<td>Other</td>
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31. What is/are the reason(s) a referred pyometra case would be declined?  *This includes both patient factors and clinic factors that might vary from day to day.*
32. In your opinion, why does your clinic choose to perform pyometra surgeries?

33. Do you ever consider non-surgical treatment of pyometra at your clinic?
   - Yes, routinely
   - Yes, for select situations
   - No
34. Please enter your email address if you would be interested in working with us to provide anonymized medical records for pyometra cases treated at your clinic for further analysis. *Email addresses are removed before data review to keep the survey anonymous.*

35. Is there anything else you would like to tell us about treatment of pyometra in your HQHVSN clinic or treatment of pyometra in HQHVSN environments in general?