

**RETROSPECTIVE STUDY OF EXOTIC PATIENTS PRESENTED TO EMERGENCY SERVICES ACROSS THE UK**

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Exotic species have been getting more popular in recent decades. According to the PFMA (Pet Food Manufacturers Association) annual report, there are an estimated 7.1 million non-domestic pets kept in the UK (including rabbits, guinea pigs, hamsters, reptiles, birds and pet poultry). Not only has the number on non-traditional pets risen, but owners are showing an increasing demand for professional veterinary care for their animals.

Rabbits, small mammals and birds often present in an acute crisis due to their high metabolic rate and prey species nature, requiring immediate and intensive veterinary care as well as prompt diagnostics.

Extensive reviews of emergency presentation and treatments have been published, but to our knowledge there is no retrospective study available highlighting the overall incidence of presentations of exotic pets to veterinary services.

The following study will demonstrate which exotic species were presented to the Out of Hours service of Vets Now Ltd. in England, Scotland and Wales within the last 5 years. We will review the presentations, geographical distribution and outcome of these cases in order to show practitioners the variety of conditions they may encounter in practice.

#### References

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