

DANISH VETERINARY CANCER REGISTRY

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Cancer registries are valuable in the evaluation of cancer prevalence in both animals and humans. They offer estimates of cancer risk in population groups, assessment of changes in cancer occurrence over time and supply epidemiological data for studies on specific cancers. Veterinary cancer registries provide information on spontaneous animal cancers, that may serve as sentinels for human cancers, and help identify risk factors in carcinogenesis.

The value of the registered data depends on the quality of the characterisation of the population at risk. In Denmark the dog and cat populations are well-known as registration is required by law. The establishment of a comprehensive Danish Veterinary Cancer Registry could therefore potentially provide highly detailed information on cancer incidence and risk factors that may be valuable to both companion animals and humans.

A feasibility study has been performed from May through December 2005 with the objective to evaluate a web-based submission form as a basis for the establishment of a Danish Veterinary Cancer Registry. Eighteen clinics across Denmark have reported neoplasias diagnosed in dogs and cats to a central registry at the Royal Veterinary and Agricultural University. Variables recorded in addition to diagnosis include species, breed, sex, age, zip-code, record number, registration number, registering practice, diagnostic methods and therapy. Both benign and malignant neoplasias from more than 500 cases has been collected.

Experiences with registration and data collection in the feasibility study will be presented along with an updated epidemiologic evaluation of the cases submitted.