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CLINICAL STUDY OF CANINE CUTANEOUS TUMORS,
ESPECIALLY THE INCIDENCE AND CYTOLOGICAL
EXAMINATION OF TUMORS

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A study of the incidence and the results of cytological examination of 189 canine cutaneous tumors obtained from 167 dogs was conducted at the Veterinary Hospital of Hokkaido University using data obtained during a 19-year period dating from April 1, 1965 to March 31, 1984.

The results were summarized as follows :

(1) The age of the dogs ranged from 4 months to 18 years. 52.3% of the dogs were 8 to 12 years, and the average age was 9.3 years.

(2) 83 (49.7%) were males, 77 (46.1%) were females and 7 (4.2%) were unknown.

(3) Tumors were found most commonly in the dogs of 25 mixed breeds (15.0%), and they were found in 20 (12.0%) Maltese, and 18 (10.8%) Hokkaido Inu.

(4) Analysis of the localization of tumors showed that the incidence of tumors was most frequent in the head and neck regions, and in the genital and anal regions, especially in the mammary and anal regions, which had 31 cases (16.4%) and 30 cases (15.9%), respectively.

(5) Classification of the tumors revealed perianal gland tumors (18 cases ; 12.9%) to be the most common, followed by mammary mixed tumors (10 cases ; 7.2%), basal cell carcinoma (8 cases ; 5.8%) and seminoma (8 cases ; 5.8%).

(6) It was found that malignant tumors and benign tumors could be distinguished by cytological examination, and particularly, the characteristics of mammary adenocarcinoma, squamous cell carcinoma, basal cell carcinoma, perianal gland tumor, mast cell tumor and histiocytoma could be easily discerned. Tumors were identified by the region from which samples were collected and gross findings.

The above results suggest that canine cutaneous tumors occur more frequently in older patients and, by location, in the mammary and anal regions. Cytological examination used in veterinary medicine as a diagnostic aid for clinical diagnosis of tumors proved to be as valuable as in human medicine.