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A GLOBAL SURVEY ON THE AVAILABILITY OF CORE ESSENTIAL MEDICINES FOR CATS AND DOGS WITH THE WORLD SMALL ANIMAL VETERINARY ASSOCIATION MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS

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Introduction:

The WSAVA Therapeutic Guidelines Group published the list of essential medicines to support animal health and welfare.

Objectives:

The aim of this study was to evaluate the availability of core essential medicines through a global survey with veterinarians.

Methods:

A survey was conducted with the WSAVA member association representatives. Each medicine was scored individually (1. Available in your country as a veterinary licensed product; 2. Available in your country as a human licensed product - but not legally allowed for veterinary use or not specified for veterinary use; 3. Available and sourced only through online pharmacies; 4. Not available or 5. Unknown). Statistical analyses were performed using multiple correspondence analysis (MCA) and logistic regression ($p < 0.05$).

Results:

A total of 61 associations completed the survey (n): Asia (10), Africa (7), Eastern Europe (15), Latin America (8), North America (4), Oceania (2) and Western Europe (15). MCA indicated that responses within Asia were more variable in relation to other regions. There was an interdependence of scores 4 for benzodiazepines, osmotic diuretic and KCl in Africa and for epinephrine and alpha-2 agonists/antagonists in Asia; scores 1 for opioids and benzodiazepines in Western Europe; scores 3 for alpha-2 antagonists in Latin America, but none with Eastern Europe or Oceania, among others. Opioids and benzodiazepines had a higher probability to be available as a veterinary product in Western Europe than Asia or Eastern Europe, respectively.

Conclusions:

This survey demonstrated variability on core medicine availability that may compromise animal welfare and minimum standards of veterinary practice.