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Prospective evaluation of pain in dogs undergoing ovariohysterectomy and castration

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Six female dogs were operated for ovariohysterectomy and six male dogs were castrated to assess severity of pain, wound healing and its complications if any from post-operative care. The heart rate, body temperature and respiratory rate were also recorded. Body temperature, heart rate and respiration in male and female dogs during the process of operation differed significantly ($P < 0.05$). On average the body temperature of female dogs was significantly higher (102.01 ± 0.91 °F) than the male dogs (101.86 ± 0.60 °F). The heart rate of female dogs was significantly higher (109.42 ± 23.06 beats per minute) than the male dogs (95.42 ± 15.97 beats per minute). Respiratory rate of female dogs was significantly higher (40.68 ± 5.07 breaths per minute) than the male dogs (35.93 ± 6.03 breaths per minute). The post-operative body temperature on average of female dogs (ovariohysterectomy) was higher than the male dogs castrated. The heart rate varied between animals in the same sex and on average heart rate of female dogs was higher than the male dogs. The respiration also varied between animals as well as between male and females, but respiration rate was higher in female dogs than the male dogs. The female and male dogs varied markedly in relation to postoperative pain due to their respective operations. There was great variation between dogs for the degree of pain or severity of pain after ovariohysterectomy surgery and this might be associated with the physical health of these animals. The male dogs physically were of different health conditions and may be the weaker dogs felt prolonged pain as compared to those with good health.

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Islamic attitudes towards animal ethics

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The Abrahamic religions, including Islam, believe that human life is more valuable than animal life and that humans have a God given authority over animals, but they should not be cruel to animals and cause their pain or suffering. Because of the widespread use of experimental animals in Iran these days, special rules have to be defined for their living conditions. Therefore, all our researchers should have enough information about ethical codes of treating experimental animals as well as Islamic principles in this regard. In the present study, all Islamic sources related to treating animals and the relevant international literature and valid ethical guidelines from other countries were compared. Finally, a strategy for an appropriate and complete framework for the national ethical guidelines for animal research in Iran was developed based on Islamic rules. These rules have been adopted as a national framework. In general, they seem comparable with other laboratory animal guidelines against animal cruelty.

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