

SPEAKING

Dear Editor,

I am writing to ask for clarification of the results of an article published in the *JAAHA* in October of 1999, volume 35, pages 384 to 391. The article was authored by Drs. Reimer, Troy, and Warnick and was titled *Immune-Mediated Hemolytic Anemia: 70 Cases (1988–1996)*. The article states that the median survival time for the five dogs treated with prednisone and azathioprine was 974 days. On careful review of the paper, however, five dogs were treated with azathioprine and four of these five dogs died. In addition, all dogs that died in this study were dead by the end of the first year. It is therefore not feasible for the median survival time for the dogs treated with azathioprine to have been greater than one year.

I bring this to your attention because this information regarding long survival times in dogs treated with prednisone and azathioprine (even though based on very small numbers)

has already been disseminated in the literature and was recently cited in another retrospective article on immune-mediated hemolytic anemia published in the most recent *Journal of Veterinary Internal Medicine*. If, in fact, this statement is incorrect, clinicians should be made aware of the error.

Sincerely,

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Dear Editor,

The authors of the article titled *Immune-Mediated Hemolytic Anemia: 70 Cases (1988–1996)* have reviewed the concerns expressed by Dr. Scott-Moncrieff. We would like to acknowledge an error. In the paper it states "...10 dogs died within the first month, another five died within three months, and another five died within a year of discharge." Rather, it should read "...10 dogs died within the first month, another four died within three months, and another four died within a year of discharge." Two other dogs died greater than one year after discharge but did not live to the end of the study. The total number of dogs alive at the end of the study, reported as 19 with two lost to follow-up, therefore remains as stated in the original article.

Of the five dogs in the prednisone/azathioprine treatment group, one dog died within the first month following discharge, one dog died within three months following discharge, and the other dogs lived 1,096, 1,799, and 1,827 days. The dog at 1,827 days was alive at the end of the study with the course of the study being from 1988 to 1996. This was the information used to calculate the reported pred-

nisone/azathioprine treatment group median and mean survival times of 974 and 931 days, respectively, as well as the mortality rates published.

Thank you for bringing this discrepancy to our attention.

Sincerely,

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