NON-SURGICAL STERILIZATION APPROACHES WITH POTENTIAL FOR NEARER-TERM IMPACT

Byron Maas
Owner, Bend Veterinary Clinic, Inc. Bend, Oregon, U.S.
Certified Master Trainer & International Veterinary Relations, Ark Sciences

Research on non-surgical sterilization methodology has been a goal for animal population control for decades. Safety and efficacy has always been paramount in any product that would be developed for use in companion animals in addition to the AVMA guidelines for the ideal implementation having the following characteristics: low-cost, single application, permanent and irreversible. This presentation discusses the history of the product discovery to the marketing and implementation of the product, including the mode of action for Zeuterin, the only currently available FDA approved non-surgical method for sterilizing male dogs. Zeuterin is a simple injection that causes permanent sterility by atrophy of the seminiferous tubules, epididymis and Leydig cells, reducing testosterone production by 41-52%. Clinical studies on dogs from 3 months of age and older have been completed to prove the safety and efficacy of Zeuterin with testicular widths ranging from 10-27mm. We will discuss the additional studies being conducted on larger testicle 28-31mm and dogs 2 months of age. Challenges of any non-surgical sterilization method include veterinary perception of testosterone's role in behavior, identifying non-surgical sterilized dogs, and training veterinarians on proper injection technique. Through the use of a non-surgical sterilant shelters, HVHQSN Clinics, and private practices can increase sterilization rates without the need and costs of typical surgery.