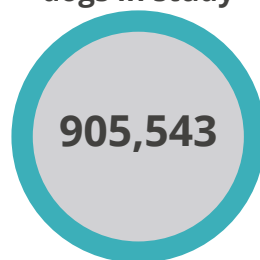


STUDY SUMMARY

This study used clinical information from real cases of HRI in dogs in the UK. A clinical grading tool was developed that can assist veterinary professionals in diagnosing and managing patients with HRI. More than 70% of HRI cases treated at veterinary practices in the UK happen after exercise, often in hot weather.

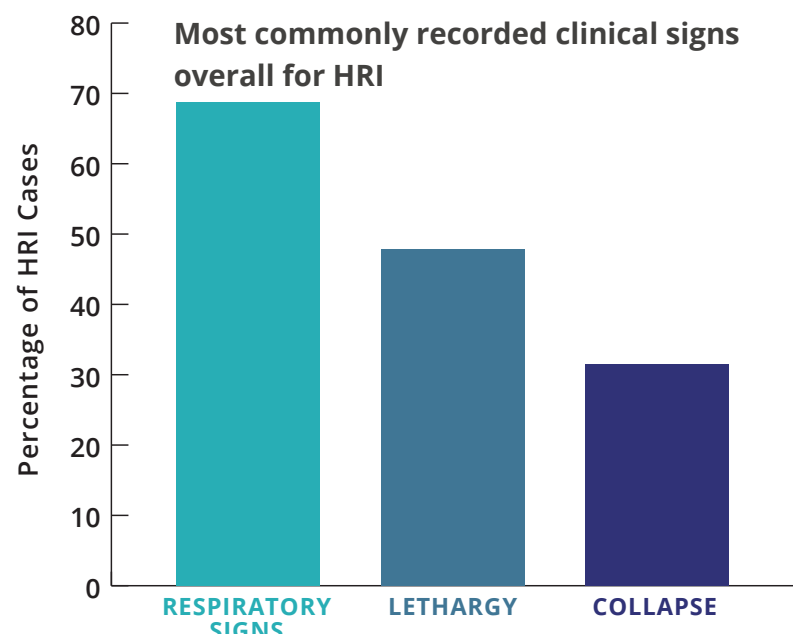
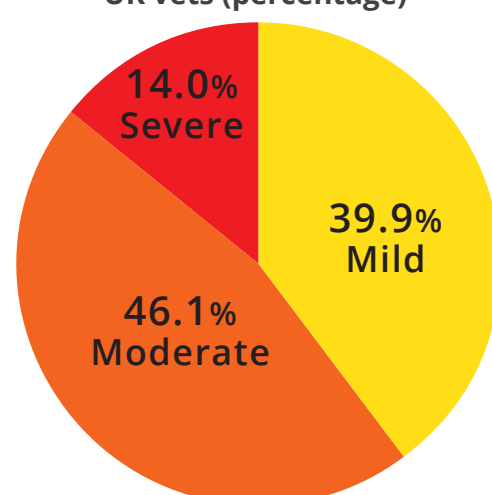
Number of dogs in study



Number of dogs treated by a veterinary practice for HRI



Grade of HRI in dogs presenting to UK vets (percentage)



MILD HRI

Clinical signs include:

- Panting
- Difficulty breathing
- Tiredness
- Change to behaviour
- Less keen to play



Recognising the signs and taking rapid and appropriate action (cooling, seeking veterinary care) **saves lives.**

97.8% of dogs with Mild HRI survived.

MODERATE HRI

Clinical signs include:

- Drooling
- Vomiting
- Diarrhoea
- A single fit (seizure)
- Collapse



These dogs need immediate veterinary care to prevent progression to the most severe form.

94.5% of dogs with Moderate HRI survived.

SEVERE HRI

Clinical signs include:

- Multiple fits (seizures)
- Complete loss of consciousness
- Loss of co-ordination and confusion
- Vomiting with blood
- Diarrhoea with blood

HRI cases presenting in an unresponsive state were **37** times more likely to die than those that were responsive.

43.2% of dogs with Severe HRI survived.



Heat related illness is a progressive disorder. The more severe the dog's clinical condition becomes, the less likely it is the dog will survive. This clinical grading tool can help owners and veterinary professionals to spot the signs of HRI earlier when it is still at the mild grade. This means that earlier action can be taken to improve the dog's chances of survival.

CLICK TO READ FULL STUDY

Hall et al. (2021) "Proposing the VetCompass Clinical Grading Tool for Heat-Related Illness in Dogs" Scientific Reports.

RVC VetCompass <https://www.rvc.ac.uk/vetcompass> carries out welfare research based on anonymised clinical information shared from over 30% of UK veterinary practices. We are very grateful to the owners and veterinary professionals who contribute to VetCompass research.