

**Library & Information Services**

**Journal Club Checklist**

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| **Title** | [**Assisting Decision-Making on Age of Neutering for 35 Breeds of Dogs: Associated Joint Disorders, Cancers, and Urinary Incontinence**](https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fvets.2020.00388/full)  Frontiers in Veterinary Science, 7, 388 |
| **What are the aims or objectives of the study?** |  |
| **Who carried out the research?** |  |
| **Did the study address a clearly focused issue?**  **Do you think this is an important issue?**  **Can you identify the patients and risk factors being studied?**  **Is the study looking for a beneficial or harmful effect?** |  |
| **What methods did the researchers use?**  **Which disease conditions did they look at?**  **How was age at neutering determined?** |  |
| **Is this methodology appropriate to the objectives or question?**  **What might be the benefits and problems with this approach?** |  |
| **Is the study design described clearly enough to enable you to follow what was done?**  Is the type of patients clearly described?  What were the inclusion and exclusion criteria for participation?  Do you think that this “cohort” is likely to be representative of the general population? |  |
| **Are these patients relevant to your practice, if not what differences need to be considered?** |  |
| **Is the data collected clearly described?** |  |
| **Are the results of the study clearly described?**  **What do you think are the strengths and weaknesses of each format?** | . |
| **Are the numbers of animals and cases included large enough to give you confidence in the results for all breeds?**  **Are the findings likely to be clinically, as well as statistically significant?**  **Do you believe the results? Do they fit with your knowledge and experience of the likelihood of these conditions occurring?** |  |
| **Limitations of the study**  **Can you think of any others?** |  |
| **Do you think that there are any potential sources of bias in the paper?** |  |
| **Do the findings support or alter your current knowledge?** |  |
| **What are the implications of this study for the advice you will give to owners about neutering?**  Do the findings provide sufficient evidence for you to consider changing your current practice?  **Would there be any practical considerations in implementing changes based on this paper?** |  |
| **Are there any other sources of information you need to look at before making a decision?**  Recommendations from observational studies are stronger when supported by other evidence. |  |

* For further information about types of study you may like to look at the [EBVM Toolkit](https://knowledge.rcvs.org.uk/evidence-based-veterinary-medicine/ebvm-toolkit/)