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Data Article

Data from a survey of *Clostridium perfringens* and *Clostridium difficile* shedding by dogs and cats in the Madrid region (Spain), including phenotypic and genetic characteristics of recovered isolates



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ABSTRACT

This article contains information related to a recent survey of the prevalence of fecal shedding of *Clostridium perfringens* and *C. difficile* by dogs and cats attended in veterinary clinics located in the Madrid region (Spain). Specifically, we provide detailed information about the clinics that participated in the survey, the demographic and clinic characteristics of recruited animals and the genetic and phenotypic characteristics (including antimicrobial susceptibility data), of recovered bacterial isolates.

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Specifications Table

Subject area	<i>Biology</i>
More specific subject area	<i>Veterinary microbiology, anaerobes, Clostridium perfringens, Clostridium difficile</i>
Type of data	<i>Tables, figures and text</i>
How data was acquired	<i>Analysis of clinical data and characteristics of bacterial isolates</i>
Data format	<i>Filtered and analyzed</i>
Experimental factors	<i>Dogs and cats attended in veterinary clinics, and the Clostridium perfringens and C. difficile isolates obtained from their feces</i>
Experimental features	<i>Analysis of general data about participating clinics, and the demographic and clinical features of recruited animals; genetic and phenotypic profiling of isolates</i>
Data source location	<i>Universidad Complutense de Madrid, Madrid, Spain</i>
Data accessibility	<i>Data is provided with this article</i>

Value of the data

- First detailed analysis of the prevalence of *Clostridium perfringens* and *Clostridium difficile* shedding by small animals (dogs and cats) in the Madrid region (Spain).
- Detailed phenotypic and genetic data of recovered isolates is provided, which may be useful for comparison in future epidemiological surveys.
- Given the recent emergence of antibiotic-resistant strains of *C. difficile*, information on the antimicrobial susceptibility profiles of the isolates obtained in this survey may be particularly valuable.

1. Data

The data shown in [Section 1.1](#) of this article provide detailed information on the veterinary clinics that participated in a recent survey of the prevalence of fecal shedding of *Clostridium perfringens* and *C. difficile* by dogs and cats which was carried out in the Madrid region (Spain) [1]. Furthermore, the demographic and clinical features of recruited animals are detailed in [Section 1.2](#), and [Section 1.3](#) provides extensive data on the genetic and phenotypic characteristics of recovered bacterial isolates.

1.1. General data about participating clinics

An overview of the 17 veterinary clinics that participated in the study (hereafter referred to as clinics A to Q) is provided in [Table 1](#). Two clinics (L and P) did not return a questionnaire of general data about their centre (see [Section 2](#)) and in two other cases (clinics H and K) the returned questionnaire was incomplete. Participating clinics were scattered within the Madrid region (14 were located in the capital city, two in other municipalities within the metropolitan area and one in a rural location) and varied widely in their year of opening (from 1981 to 2014), number of cases attended per week ($x \pm S.D. = 37.6 \pm 18.7$ and 16.5 ± 11 for dogs and cats, respectively), number of fecal cultures requested per week (1.6 ± 2.4 and 0.9 ± 1.8), and other parameters ([Table 1](#)). These clinics also differed in the antibiotics used for the treatment of diarrhea, but 12 of them (80% for which pharmacological data were available) reported the use of metronidazole for the treatment of these conditions. Only three clinics (20%; F, J and O) acknowledged frequent request of microbiological culturing for anaerobes, and five clinics (33.3%; D, F, H, N and O) reported occasional suspicion of *C. difficile* and/or *C. perfringens* involvement in severe cases of diarrhea.

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