

# ASSESSMENT OF THE USE OF ANALGESICS IN CASTRATION AND OVARIOHYSTERECTOMY IN FELINE (FELIS CATUS) AND CANINE (CANIS FAMILIARIS) SPECIES: IS IT SUFFICIENT? A COMPARISON BETWEEN SPAIN AND MEXICO

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## INTRODUCTION

- Pain management is crucial in veterinary surgeries like castration and ovariohysterectomy, enhancing recovery and welfare.
- Prior studies highlight inconsistent analgesic use in these procedures for dogs and cats.
- This study investigates current practices in Spain and Mexico, identifies gaps, and compares regional approaches.

## MATERIAL AND METHODS

- Online survey distributed to veterinarians in Spain (n=70) and Mexico (n=30).
- Questions about analgesic use, pain perception, and familiarity with pain scales.
- Data analyzed by country and professional experience.

## OBJECTIVES

- Evaluate the adequacy of analgesic use in gonadectomy procedures for cats and dogs, identifying factors that can influence.
- Compare analgesic practices in castration and ovariohysterectomy surgeries between Spain and Mexico, highlighting regional differences.
- Develop an informative leaflet for veterinarians to improve pain detection and encourage them to use proper analgesic treatment.



## RESULTS

Tables showing analgesic use in dogs (top table) and cats (bottom table) in Spain.

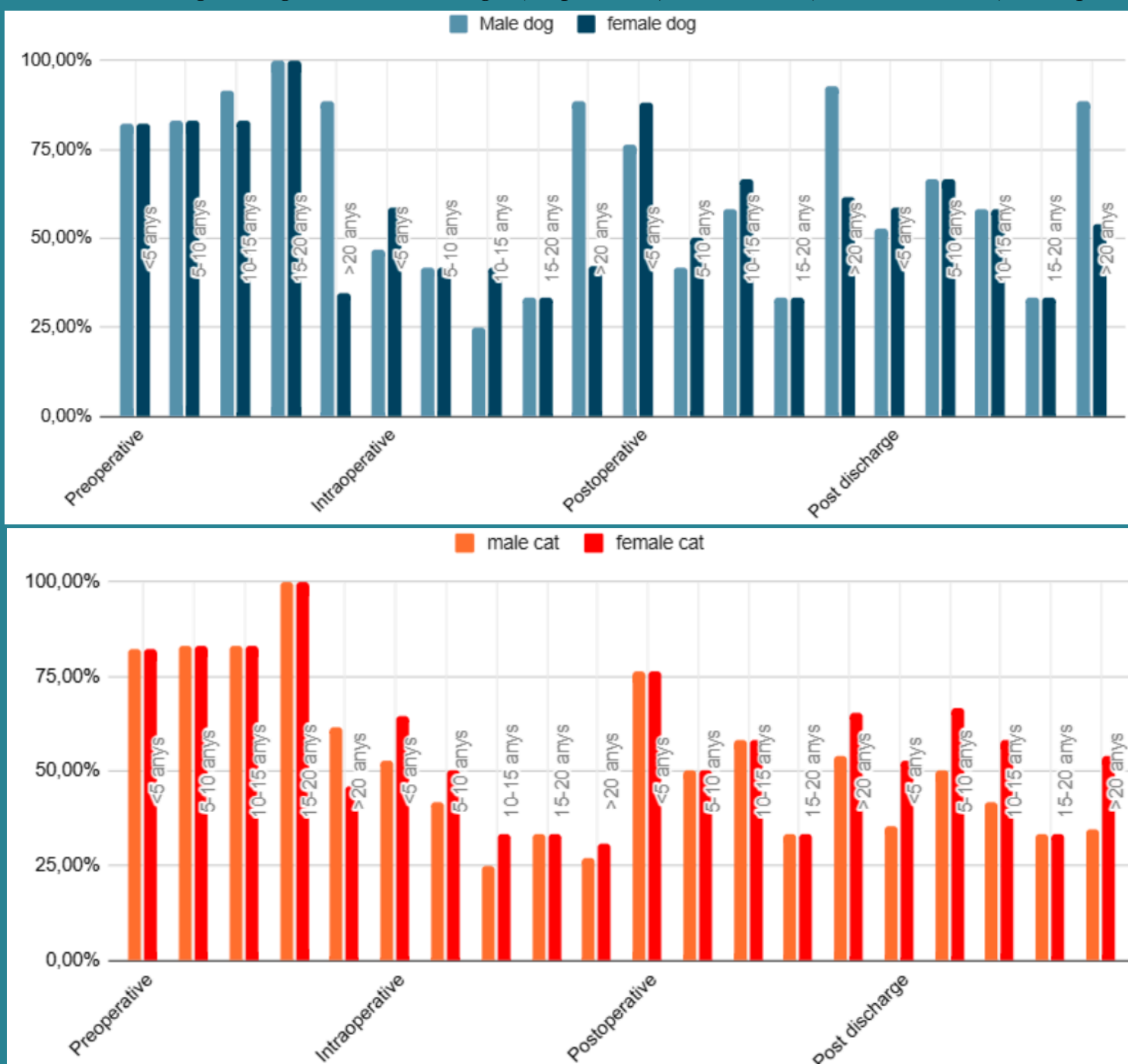
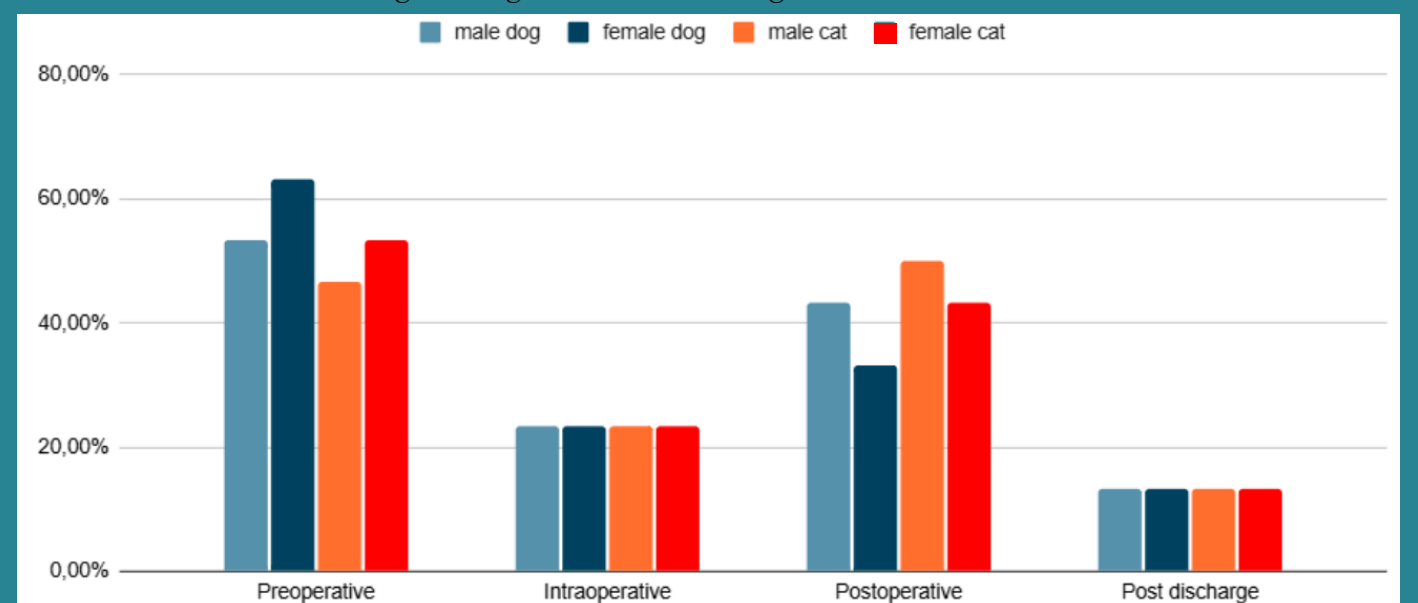


Table showing analgesic use in dogs and cats in Mexico.



- In Spain, only 53.6% of veterinarians provide post-discharge analgesia for females, despite evidence showing that ovariohysterectomy causes acute pain lasting up to three days post-operation. In Mexico, only 13.3% administered post-discharge analgesia.
- Cats (both males and females) receive less analgesia than dogs and are considered to experience less pain.
- In Spain, opioids (79.2%) were most used, while in Mexico, the dominant drug is NSAIDs (97.7%).
- In Spain, 85.8% of the veterinarians knew pain assessment scales, but only 36.5% of them applied the scales regularly. In Mexico, 80% knew of these scales, with a mere 3.3% using them.

## CONCLUSIONS

- The inconsistent use of analgesics across different surgical stages, particularly in post-discharge care, highlights the urgent need to review and standardize pain management protocols in veterinary practice (especially concerning among more experienced veterinarians).
- Differences between Spain and Mexico indicate disparities in veterinary education, resources, and pain management approaches. Also, young veterinarians are more likely to adopt new practices.
- While most veterinarians in both regions are familiar with pain assessment scales, their limited application (particularly in Mexico) indicates barriers such as lack of training, time constraints, or perceived complexity.
- The reliance on opioids in Spain versus NSAIDs in Mexico reveals differences in accessibility, regulation, and prescription habits, pointing to the need for harmonized guidelines that account for both efficacy and local constraints.