



Mattilsynet

Statens tilsyn for planter, fisk, dyr og næringsmidler

Haemorrhagic gastroenteritis in dogs in Norway

Fredrik W. Andersen, PAFF AHW 24.-25.09.2019



Case description

- Many cases of acute vomit and haemorrhagic diarrhoea in dogs since mid August
 - The Norwegian Food Safety Authority received notification from animal hospital 4 September
 - The Norwegian Veterinary Institute started investigating the cases on behalf of NFSA
- Key figures per 20 September
 - Approx. 43 fatal cases
 - 184 reported patients with acute haemorrhagic diarrhoea
 - Concentrated around the Oslo-area, but also single cases in the whole country
- Difficult to establish a specific case definition
 - Symptoms relative common
 - Hard to evaluate acuteness and amount of blood in faeces
- High media attention
 - Speculations of causes
 - Investigation pressure



Notification and international consequences

- 5 September: Notification to the CVOs of the Nordic countries
English website established
- 6 September: The Norwegian Kennel Club cancelled all planned events
- 7 September: Island closed the border for dogs from Norway
Swedish-, Danish- and Finnish Kennel Club closed all their events for dogs from Norway
- 10 September: Notification to all CVOs
Notification to the Commission
- 20 September: Information in other European languages online



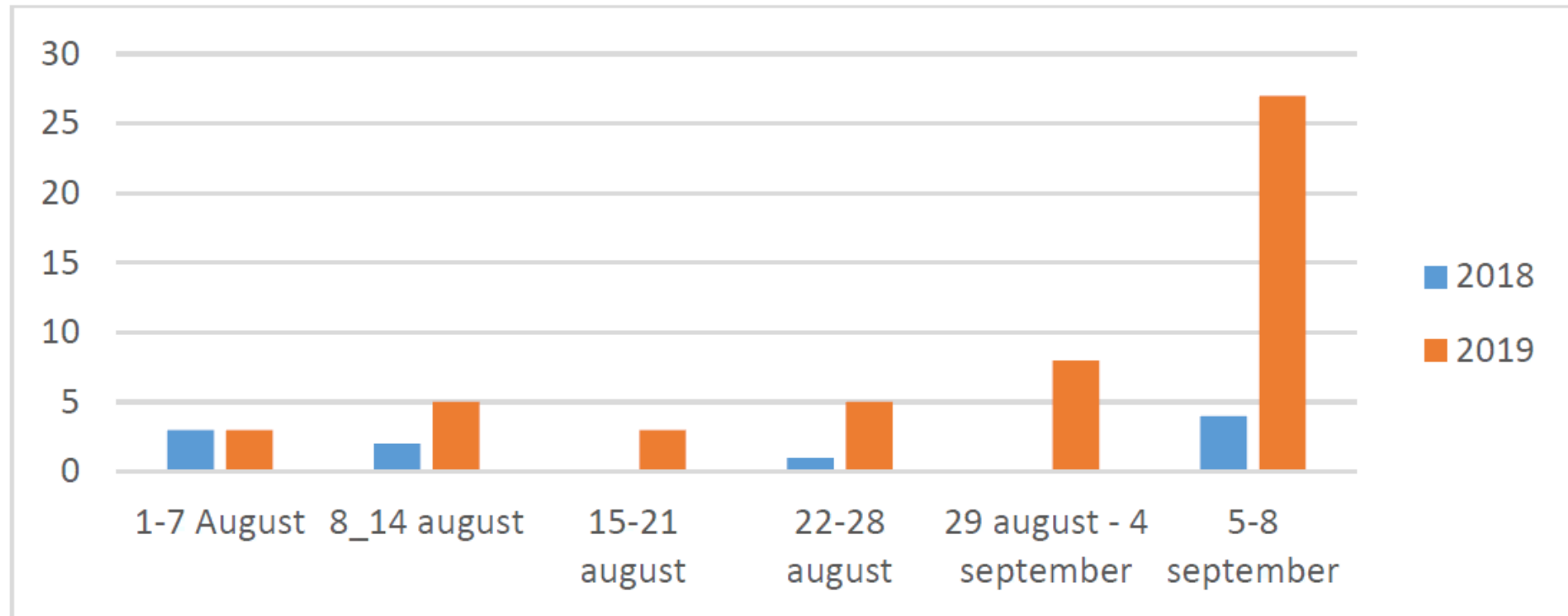
Investigations

Performed by the Norwegian Veterinary institute

- Necropsy of 18 dogs, all presenting the same pathological signs from the gut
- Samples of faeces of 196 sick dogs and more than 40 healthy dogs (clinical controls)
- Epidemiologic questionnaire for Veterinary Clinics, 184 responses collected
- Epidemiologic investigations ongoing
 - All age groups represented
 - 90 different breeds
 - A number of feeds and dog chews
 - No obvious common features so far

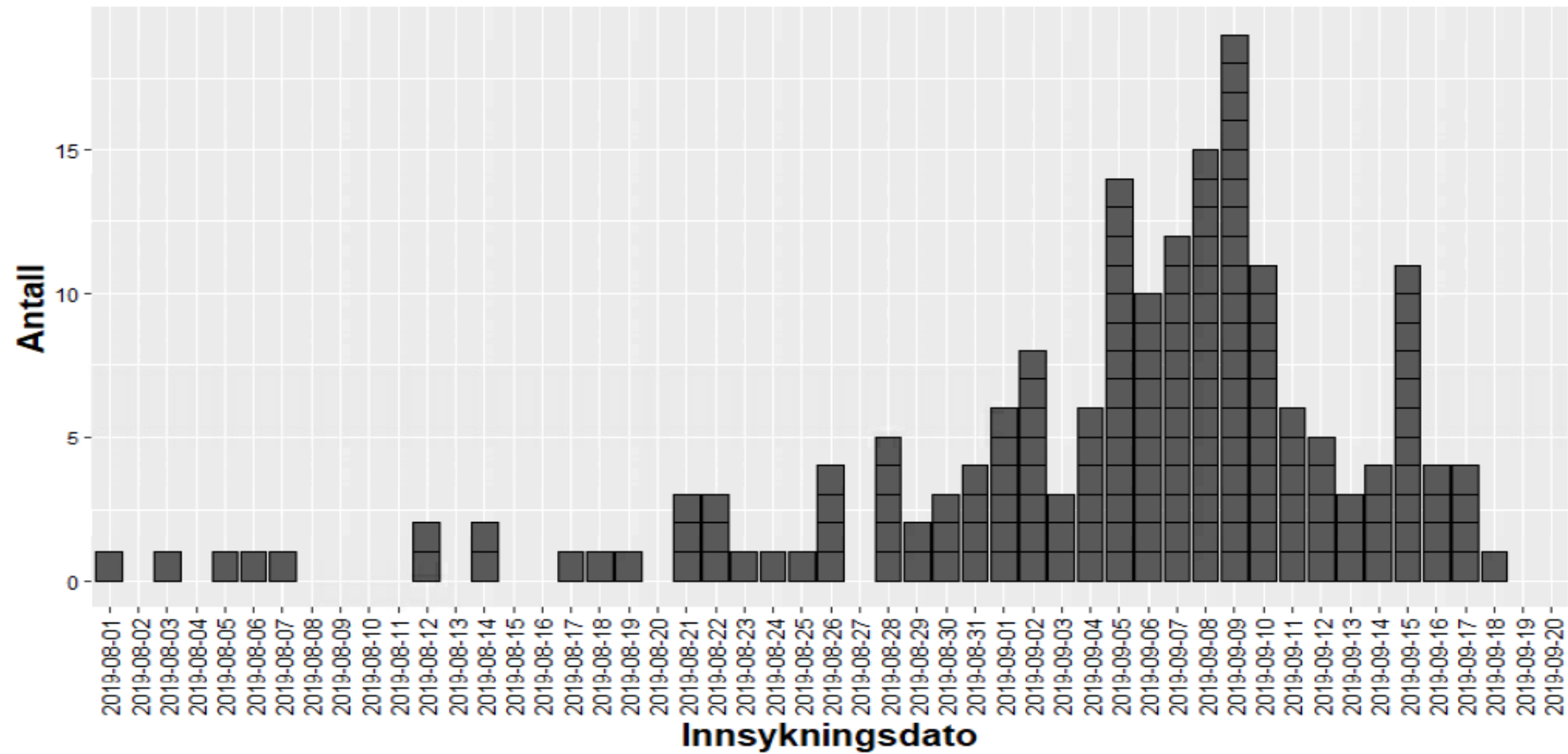


Example of higher incidence of cases with haemorrhagic diarrhoea at University of Life Sciences, Small Animal Clinic



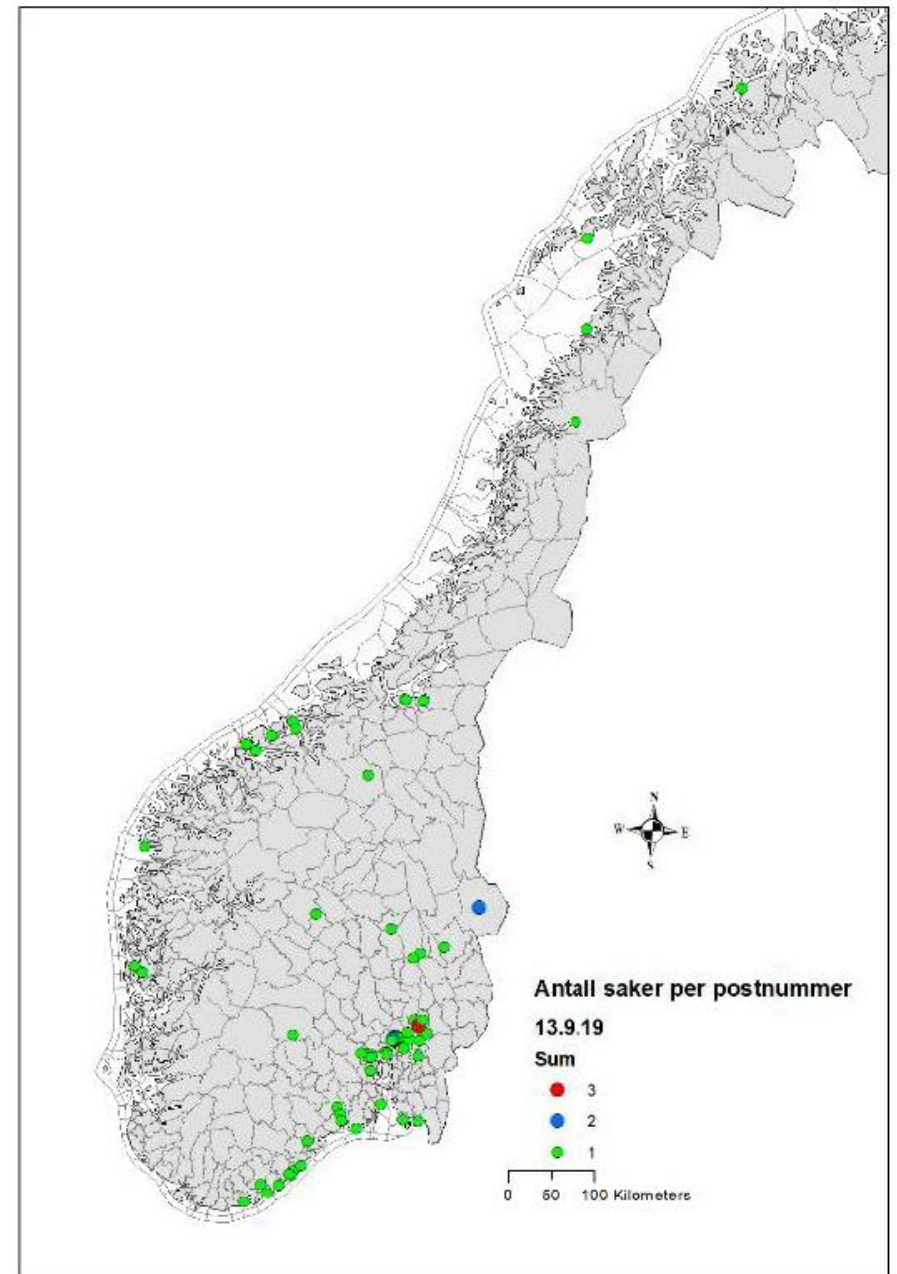
Epicurve - reported date of first symptoms of registered cases (based on responses from Veterinary clinics)

Epidemikurve, questback vet, hunder med blodig diare, morgen 20.sep.



Geographical spread of registered cases of haemorrhagic diarrhoea

- based on responses from Veterinary Clinics



Preliminary results

- Exclusion of common differential diagnosis
 - Antrax, Tularemia, Campylobacteriosis, EHEC, Leptospira and Salmonellosis
 - Parvovirus-, Circovirus- or Coronavirus infection
 - Fungus infection
 - Giardia- or Cryptosporidium infestation
 - Common causes of poisoning (rat poison etc.)
 - Algeapointing
 - Common tickborne diseases
- Clear geographical concentration, in South-Eastern Norway
- No indication of high infectiveness
- Difficult to evaluate incidence and mortality, due to unclear case definition
- Two bacteria are found in abundance in several of the dogs that have died, but also in some surviving cases and control cases
 - *Providencia alcalifaciens*
 - *Clostridium perfringens*
- No reports of similar cases in neighboring countries
- No evidence of any risk for transmission to humans, and none of the owners reported sick



Preventive measures – advice to dog owners

- Keep your dog on a lead in order to avoid close contact with other dogs, but make sure it gets the exercise it needs
- Gatherings of dogs should be avoided, or carried out in a way that limits contact between dogs
- Don't let your dog sniff/greet other dogs when out walking
- Don't let your dog sniff areas or eat material where other dogs might have been
- If your dog experiences bloody or gushing diarrhoea, vomiting or deteriorating condition, contact your veterinarian
- Call ahead to the veterinarian before you bring your dog to the clinic
- Follow the advice of your veterinarian, especially regarding vaccines.

Links:

https://www.mattilsynet.no/language/english/serious_illness_in_dogs.36035

https://www.mattilsynet.no/dyr_og_dyrehold/kjaledyr_og_konkurransedyr/hund/Pagaende_sykdomsutbrudd_hos_hund/information_in_different_languages_about_illness_in_dogs.36293

<https://www.vetinst.no/en/news/severe-illness-in-dogs-in-norway-update-13-september>

