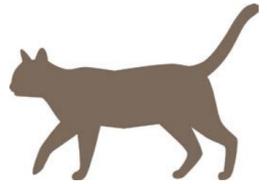


Improved ease of use of the subcutaneous implant (Suprelorin™) actuator, a survey among German and French veterinarians



ESPUNA G., LEFEBVRE C., POINCELOT L., FONTAINE C.
Virbac, 13eme rue LID, 06511 Carros, France

INTRODUCTION & AIM

Suprelorin™, a subcutaneous contraceptive implant for dogs, cats and ferrets, has been registered in the European Union since 2007. It is administered using a specific device. To enhance user-friendliness and align with the increasing number of women in the veterinary profession in Europe, the original actuator has been modified. These improvements include the addition of ergonomic wings, a spring and a sensitive indicator for implant administration. This product test survey aimed to collect user feedback on these changes.

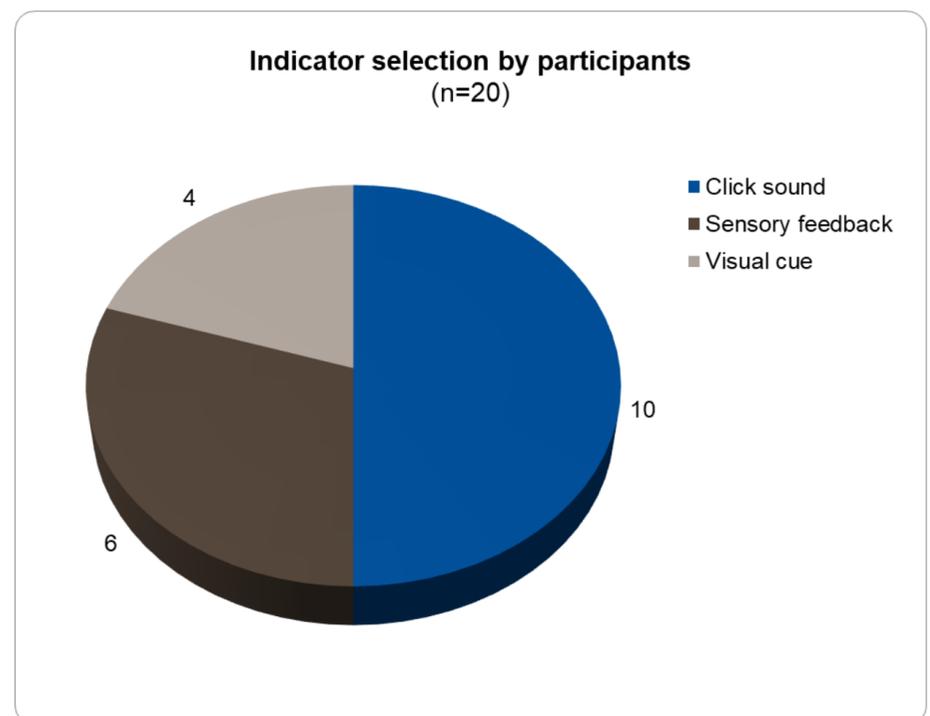
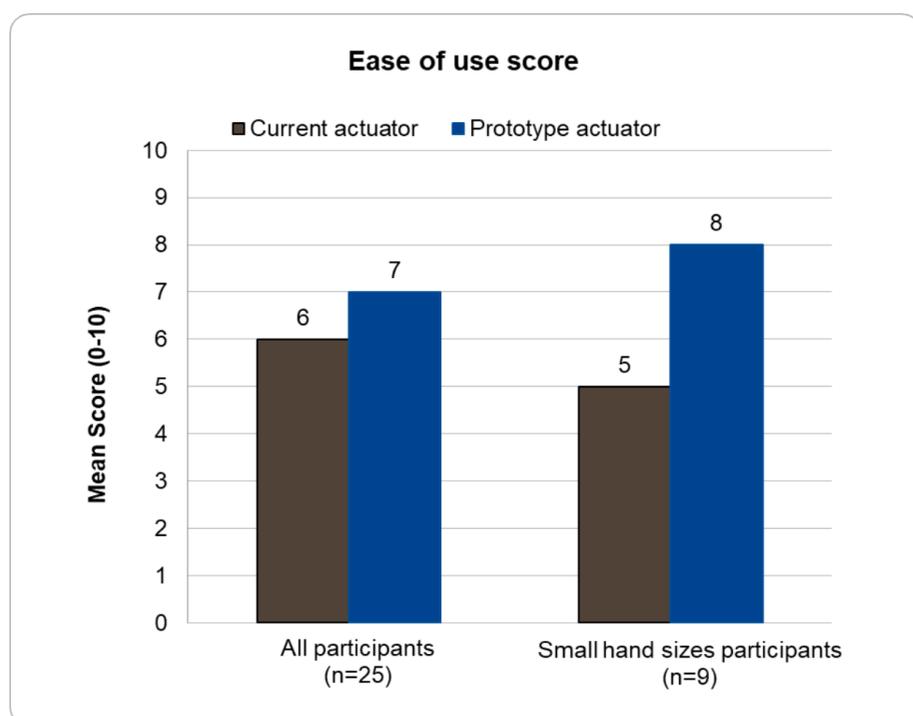
METHOD

Twenty-five veterinary practitioners from France (n=10) and Germany (n=15), already users of Suprelorin™, were given both the original actuator and the prototype, along with a silicone pouch and placebo implants. They evaluated the ease of use and visual aspect of each device using a standardized questionnaire.



RESULTS & DISCUSSION

Women represented over half of the participants (13/25). Veterinarians rated the current actuator at 6/10 for both ease of use and visual appeal. The prototype actuator scored 7/10 for both criteria. Notably, for veterinarians with small hand sizes (n=9), the prototype's ease of use improved to 8/10, compared to 5/10 for the current actuator, achieving the highest overall score. Veterinarians expressed strong interest (7/10) in an indicator for correct implant administration, with a preference for a “click” sound.



CONCLUSION

While veterinarians were generally satisfied with the current actuator, their positive feedback on the prototype suggests that the new design could facilitate Suprelorin™ implant administration and better fit with the current veterinarian profile.

