

# Who Ate All The Socks? A Retrospective Case-control Study Of Sock And Other Foreign Body Ingestion In Dogs In Sydney

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**Introduction:** We aimed to determine associations between signalment and foreign body (FB) ingestion in dogs in Sydney. As well aiming to inform practitioners about signalments associated with FB ingestion, the authors hypothesised that sock FBs are most common in Samoyeds.

**Materials and Methods:** The study included 165 cases which were University Veterinary Teaching Hospital Sydney (UVTHS) dogs who ingested FBs between January 2014 to December 2023. Controls were 329 UVTHS dogs randomly selected from the same database during the same period with no prior history of FB ingestion. Data on signalment – age, breed, neuter status, sex and weight – were collected for both groups. Univariable logistic regression was used to explore the relationship between FB ingestion (outcome = yes/no) and signalment. Similarly, univariable regression was used to investigate associations between sock ingestion (outcome = socks/other foreign body) and signalment.

**Results:** Labradors were significantly over-represented amongst FB cases (OR = 2.38, CI = 1.27-4.43). Dogs under 5 years of age and neutered dogs were also significantly over-represented ( $\leq 2$  years: OR = 2.43; 2-5 years: OR = 2.78; Neutered: OR = 2.75). Seventeen dogs had confirmed sock FBs, with Samoyeds and Siberian Huskies being significantly over-represented (Samoyed: OR = 15.64, CI = 2.41 – 101.63; Siberian Huskies: OR = 47.9, CI = 2.2 – 1043.45).

**Conclusions:** FB ingestion was more common in young and neutered dogs, particularly Labradors. Samoyeds and Siberian Huskies showed a higher likelihood of sock FBs compared to other breeds.