Table 4 Cardiopulmonary variables, time from drug injection to intubation, inspired isoflurane concentrations and anaesthetic duration in swans immediately prior to the intravenous administration of either alfaxalone (Group A) or ketamine and xylazine (Group KX) for the induction of anaesthesia. Anaesthesia was maintained with isoflurane in oxygen. Data are presented as median and interquartile range (IQR) unless otherwise stated. For details of drug doses used see Table 2 legend. *n* is the number of birds in the group. Significance was set at $p < 0.05$. $F_E´Iso$ = end tidal isoflurane concentration, f_R = respiratory rate, HR = Heart rate, $P_E´CO_2$ = end tidal carbon dioxide, SpO_2 = peripheral haemoglobin oxygen saturation

Variable	Group A (*n* = 27)	Group KX (*n* = 31)	*p*
Resting HR (beats minute^{-1})	92 (80-102)	88 (72-96)	0.0330*
Resting f_R (breaths minute^{-1})	8 (6-10)	8 (6-10)	0.7269
Time to intubation (seconds) †	60 (60-60)	60 (60-90)	0.0176*
HR immediately post induction (beats minute^{-1})	176 (139-183)	64 (58-73)	< 0.0001*
HR at 5 minutes post induction (beats minute^{-1})	155 (127-180)	68 (61-78)	< 0.0001*
Median HR during anaesthesia (beats minute^{-1})	146 (127-168)	66 (56-78)	< 0.0001*
Number of swans with initial apnoea‡	12 (44)	1 (3.2)	0.0002*

Duration of apnoea (minutes)	0	0	0.0002*
	(0-6)	(0)	
f_R 10 minutes postinduction	12	9	0.0049*
(if no apnoea) (breaths minute^{-1})	(9-18)	(8-11)	
f_R 15 minutes postinduction	13	10	0.0010*
(if no apnoea) (breaths minute^{-1})	(12-15)	(6-12)	
Median f_R during anaesthesia	13	10	0.0306*
(excluding apnoea) (breaths minute^{-1}) †	(8-17)	(8-12)	
$P_{E'}CO_2$ immediately postinduction	42 [5.6]	45.5 [6.1]	0.4406
(if no apnoea) (mmHg)[kPa]	(33-57) [4.4-7.6]	(41.5-50) [5.5-6.7]	
$P_{E'}CO_2$ 5 minutes postinduction	51 [6.8]	46 [6.1]	0.1511
(if no apnoea) (mmHg) [kPa]	(41.5-59.5) [5.5-7.9]	(35.0-51.0) [4.7-6.8]	
Median $P_{E'}CO_2$ during anaesthesia	53.75 [7.2]	46.5 [6.2]	0.0972
(excluding apnoea) (mmHg) [kPa]	(41.63-62.75) [5.6-8.4]	(37.5-52.0) [5.0-6.9]	
SpO_2 immediately postinduction (%)	99 (98-100)	98 (98-100)	0.3144
SpO_2 5 minutes postinduction (%)	99 (98-100)	99 (98-100)	0.7536
Median SpO_2 during anaesthesia (%)	99 (99-100)	99 (98-100)	0.5112
Vaporiser setting for isoflurane concentration immediately post induction (%)	3 (2.0-3.5)	2 (1.5-2.0)	0.0001*

FE´Iso 5 minutes post induction (%)	2.5 (2.0-3.0)	2 (1.5-2.0)	0.0001*
Median FE´Iso required during procedure (%)	2.5 (2.0-3.0)	1.5 (1.5-2.0)	0.0001*
Duration of anaesthesia§ (minutes)	18 (15-28)	17 (15-27)	0.7600

*$p < 0.05$. †Confounded value. ‡Total number (percentage of the group). §Time from completion of induction drug dose to cessation of isoflurane.