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Kent C. Roberts, D.V.M.
Extension Veterinarian
THORACIC BLASTOMYCOSIS

Among 28 male and 12 female dogs 1-8 yr old (avg 2.9) with blastomycosis, clinical signs included respiratory (17 dogs), ocular (14), cutaneous (12), musculoskeletal (6) and GI (3) involvement, and lymphadenopathy (11) and orchitis (3). Temperatures were 37.8-40.6C (99.8-105F) and WBC counts 8100-73,600 (ave 22,636). Diagnosis was confirmed by microscopic identification of yeast forms in 37 dogs and serum antibody levels in 3.

Radiographic findings included nodular interstitial densities (13 dogs), mixed lung patterns (10), bronchointerstitial patterns (5), nonspecific interstitial patterns (4), alveolar and interstitial densities (2), cavitary lesions (1) and pleural effusion (1); 4 had normal-appearing lungs. Some type of interstitial change was present in 35 dogs.

A nodular interstitial pattern with generalized moderate to poorly marginated, often coalescing, masses 3mm in diameter appear to represent the classic manifestation of blastomycosis. Enlargement of sternal and/or tracheobronchial lymph nodes was detected in 8 dogs, bronchial disease in 10. Severity of radiographic signs was unrelated to mortality. --M. A. Walker, Coll Vet Med, Univ Tennesse, Knoxville. Vet Radio 22:22-26, 1981; as reported in Veterinary Medicine Newsletter, University of Florida; February 1, 1983.

PRACTICE TIPS

.... "To provide an easier removal of bandages in declaws, I place the following in this order onto the foot. (1) Furacin powder, (2) 4 x 4 gauze sponge, (3) latex finger (cut from latex surgeon's glove), (4) adhesive tape. This procedure reduces the pain of removal as the tape is not applied to the skin or hair." --Dr. G. W. Johnsen, El Paso, Texas.

.... "Our hospital has had good luck in the long-term administration (2-4 days) of intravenous fluids to very sick animals, if a butterfly catheter and Thomas splint are used. The splint is placed on the forelimb after the anterior surface has been clipped and scrubbed. The butterfly catheter is inserted into the vein as close to the carpus as is possible, and taped so as to eliminate motion. The polyethylene tubing is looped several times upon itself and taped to the paw, followed by its attachment to a standard intravenous line." --Dr. Donald R. Watson, Flint, Michigan.

.... "A total package for vaccination, parasite determination and spaying and neutering paid in advance helps to foster a continuing relationship with a practice."
"Colored clothespegs to indicate an unoccupied kennel."

"Buying bulk newsprint (before printing) keeps animals and kennels clean. Often suppliers will cut the paper to fit your various kennels." --Dr. T. R. Watt, Burnaby, B.C. Canada.

"We use small plastic dispensing vials for our fecals - preferably not child proof. After reading the floatation it is capped and disposed of - no mess, no odor."

"Keep an empty plastic jug in areas of treatment for disposal of used needles."

"I find that placing a plastic urinary catheter down through the lumen of a small endotrachial tube adds rigidity and accuracy when tubing a cat - a chambers intrauterine catheter is great in dogs. With the dogs the catheter stops before reaching the end of the tube, but with the cat, I want the catheter to extend one inch beyond. This is slipped into the trachea and the endotrachael tube is pushed down into the trachea." --Lewis W. Puckett, Charlotte, NC; all reported in the Veterinary Medicine Newsletter, University of Florida, February, 1983.

HARDWARE DISEASE IN HORSES

"Hardware Disease" in horses? Horses normally do not develop "hardware disease" like cattle. However, nail clinches can cause digestive disturbances when inadvertently ingested with feed. One practitioner had a collection of grapefruit size enteroliths. Three had been cut in cross section and each one had a cut-off horseshoe nail clinch as a nucleus. Clients need to be warned of this potential danger. --Bruce Sharp, DVM, Hobart, Indiana; as reported in Veterinary Newsletter, The University of Georgia College of Agriculture, February, 1983; No. 178.

MASTITIS TIPS

A much higher percent of Staph. Mastitis infected cows will be culled as "problem breeders" than from the "clean" culturing cows of the same herd. (50% vs 20%)

Feeding a high energy ration during the dry period contributes to an increased incidence of Mastitis (especially coliform), as well as milk fever and metritis. --Dr. Robert Bushnell, Univ of California; Utah Veterinary Newsletter; Feb/March, 1982; as reported in WSU Animal Health Notes, Washington State University.
Acquired hypersensitivities to dietary components are an important cause of pruritic skin disease in dogs. In the majority of cases, pruritus results from a type III hypersensitivity reaction resulting in a dermal vasculitis. Less commonly, type I and type IV hypersensitivities may be involved.

The cutaneous manifestations of dietary hypersensitivity in dogs are extremely varied, making diagnosis relatively difficult. Among the cutaneous syndromes seen are:

1. Atopic-like signs
2. Scabies-like signs
3. Flea-allergy like signs
4. Recurrent pyotraumatic dermatitis
5. Facial pruritus
6. Generalized pruritic folliculitis
7. Seborrheic dermatitis-like signs
8. Urticaria or angioedema
9. Generalized pruritus without lesions
10. Recurrent bilateral otitis externa

The majority of dogs recently examined at the VMTH with food allergies have either shown an abrupt onset of persistent generalized pruritus before six months of age or have suffered an acute onset of atopic-like signs later in life (often between 5 and 10 years of age). In the face of continuing exposure, their pruritus has been only partially corticosteroid-responsive.

Confirmation of the diagnosis depends on demonstration of the relationship between diet and pruritic skin disease with the use of hypoallergenic diets. Since affected dogs usually develop sensitivity to a common constituent of their commercial dog food (beef, horsemeat, pork, milk, wheat, preservatives, dyes or stabilizers) the elimination diet should be formulated to contain ingredients not formerly present in the patient's diet. Suitable diets include chicken and rice, mutton and rice or cottage cheese and rice.

Ideally the dog should be hospitalized at the beginning of the trial receiving a laxative and enema at this time. Food should be withheld for 24-48 hours at this time also. Following discharge, the elimination diet is fed as the sole source of nutrition for 2-3 weeks. Rawhide chew toys, vitamin tablets and table scraps are avoided during this period.

Confirmation of the diagnosis occurs when pruritus decreases following initiation of the diet and is exacerbated when the original diet is reintroduced. There is frequently a 3-6 day delay between introduction of a diet and observation of the anticipated response. Since secondary complications such as superficial pyoderma frequently accompany dietary hypersensitivities, complete resolution of pruritus may not occur. Finally, single foodstuffs may be added to the hypoallergenic diet at weekly intervals to identify the offending allergen. --Dr. John August, College of Veterinary Medicine, Virginia Tech.
A duly licensed veterinarian in the State of Ohio was charged by the Ohio Veterinary Medical Board with thirty-four instances of gross incompetence and one instance of permitting an unlicensed assistant to practice veterinary medicine. On the veterinarian's request, an administrative hearing examiner was appointed and a hearing held on twenty-seven charges of gross incompetence (seven charges being ignored) and on the single charge of allowing unlicensed practice.

At the conclusion of the hearing, the Board suspended the veterinarian's license for one year with six months of that time suspended.

The veterinarian thereupon appealed to the Court of Common Pleas for a judicial rendering of his case. The Court affirmed the suspension, finding that the Board's order was supported by reliable, probative and substantial evidence and was in accordance with law. It was conceded by the court that in rendering its judgment, it did not read or review the transcript of proceedings before the hearing examiner but relied instead on the examiner's report.

As was the veterinarian's right, he appealed the decision of the Court of Common Pleas to the Ohio Court of Appeals. After reading the presented evidence, the Court of Appeals reversed the lower court's judgment and remanded the case back to the Court of Common Pleas for further proceedings.

Why the reversal?

Listen to the reasoning of the Court of Appeals: "We hold that as a reviewing court, the court below (Court of Common Pleas) had a mandatory duty to examine and consider the transcript of the hearing and that it could not fulfill that duty by examining and considering only the hearing examiner's report. The plain language of the state's statute directs the reviewing court to look at the entire record, not just summaries thereof, and to determine whether the order is "supported by reliable, probative, and substantial evidence." We believe that the court cannot do that without examining and considering the record in its entirety including the transcript of the evidence.

--From Court of Appeals of Ohio, as reported by Murray Loring, Attorney At Law, Williamsburg, Virginia.

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

If you plan for a year - plant rice
If you plan for 100 years - plant trees
If you plan for eternity - educate men

Old Chinese Proverb
BULL EXPOSURE INFLUENCES EARLY RETURN OF COWS TO ESTRUS

Exposure of cows to bulls during the early post-calving period shortens the interval from calving to first estrus. Mature cows exposed to bulls from time of calving returned to estrus 21 days earlier than cows not exposed to bulls until 53 days post-calving. The average number of days post-calving before start of estrus cycles was 41±1 for cows exposed to bulls from time of calving as compared to 62±2 for cows not exposed to bulls until 53 days post-calving. Management practices which shorten this interval can be beneficial in most cow/calf operations. Practices that increase the percentage of cows cycling when breeding seasons are started generally increase the overall conception and are particularly important in getting high conception rates early in breeding seasons.

Simple alterations in management practices such as placing sterile bulls with herds of cows that are to be artificially inseminated well in advance of the time breeding starts rather than immediately before the breeding season could be applied at no added cost. Sterilized bulls could also "trigger" the onset of estrus cycles in cows of marginal condition, late calving cows, or younger cows all of which have delayed return to post-calving estrus and/or tend to conceive later in the breeding season. --as reported from an article by Jim Kinder, et al., 1983 Nebraska Beef Cattle Report; abstracted by Dr. Don Hudson.

AGALACTIA IN MARES

R. Reynolds Cowles, Jr., DVM, has undertaken a research project involving agalactia in mares. Any practitioners who have agalactia mares and would be willing to assist in this project should contact Dr. Cowles. He needs the following information:

1. A history of the mare containing age, nutritional status and type of pasture.
2. Serum samples taken daily or every other day for at least three days post partum.
3. A collect telephone call to (804) 973-7947 to discuss the case.

This study has been going on for two years and your help in completing it would be sincerely appreciated. -- R. Reynolds Cowles, Jr., DVM; Blue Ridge Equine Clinic, Free Union, VA.
NEW SERVICE AVAILABLE

Veterinarians are often asked to provide assistance to injured or orphaned wildlife. Many veterinarians feel they don't have the expertise or facilities to properly care for these animals.

Help is now available in the form of the Shenandoah Valley Wildlife Treatment and Rehabilitation Center (SVWTRC) in Waynesboro. The Center is a non-profit, tax exempt, educational corporation which will offer full medical and rehabilitation services at no charge. It will also sponsor educational experiences for children and adults on the importance and beauty of wildlife.

Veterinary procedures will be handled at the animal technology department, Blue Ridge Community College in Weyers Cave. Interested practitioners may receive help from SVWTRC concerning the treatment of injured wildlife.

The Center's number is (703) 943-WILD. Dr. Stuart Porter, Blue Ridge Community College, is available for consultation at (703) 224-9261. He would like to hear from interested veterinarians who might be available for the referral of injured wildlife from their area.

Let's support this needed service.

(NOTE: Stuart L. Porter, VMD, will have articles on treating wildlife in future issues.)

SUCCESS IS NO ACCIDENT

I have heard it said that veterinary practices tend to "peak" after about ten years. Growth slows or stops and income levels off as the practice "matures."

Is it the practice that has "peaked" or could it be the veterinarian? Put new life in your practice. Recharge your batteries and renew your enthusiasm for veterinary medicine. Attend a good continuing education seminar or visit a well managed practice.

Remember, a rut is the most comfortable place in the world. --K. C. Roberts, DVM, College of Veterinary Medicine, Virginia Tech.
VETERINARY COLLEGE NEWS

Drs. Joe Alexander and Rich Bradley were program speakers at the annual meeting of the American College of Veterinary Surgeons in Las Vegas, February 15-18, 1983.

Drs. John August and Larry Booth presented papers at the Virginia Veterinary Medical Association annual convention in Richmond, February 18-20, 1983.

Dr. David G. Pugh has joined the ambulatory health services as a field clinician. Dr. Pugh comes to Blacksburg from his own private practice in Mableton, Georgia. In addition to his clinical duties, he will be working toward a Ph.D. in equine nutrition.

MEETINGS

April 8-9, 1983  Orthopedics of the Canine Hindlimb
                Blacksburg, Virginia
April 19-21, 1983 Mid-Atlantic States Avian Medicine Seminar
                 Atlantic City, New Jersey
May 19, 1983     Mid-Atlantic Clinics
                 Timonium, Maryland
May 22, 1983     Technicians Seminar - Small Animal Anesthesia
                 NVCC
                 Sterling, Virginia
June 24-26, 1983 VVMA Mini Convention
                 Williamsburg, Virginia
July 10, 1983    Canine Reproduction Seminar
                 Richmond, Virginia
Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine Extension Staff:

Dr. C. T. Larsen, Extension Specialist - Avians
Dr. K. C. Roberts, Extension Specialist - Equine and Companion Animals
Dr. T. P. Siburt, Extension Specialist - Pharmacology and Toxicology
Dr. H. F. Troutt, Extension Specialist - Cattle and Swine

Mollie Heterick, Managing Editor of Virginia Veterinary Notes