

Clinical Quiz:

Small Animal Medicine and Surgery

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Case #1:

A six-year old Great Dane is presented to your clinic with the owner's complaint that the dog had tried to vomit several times with no success about two hours ago and since then had appeared to be in pain and very depressed. Physical examination reveals that indeed the animal is in pain, especially over the anterior ventral abdomen. The respiratory rate is forty per minute, the heart rate 150/min., the femoral pulse quite weak, and the mucous membranes are paler than normal but not pale enough for you to consider irreversible shock; at least not yet. You confirm your diagnosis by attempting to pass a stomach tube.

Your diagnosis is: _____

Your treatment is: _____

Your prognosis is: _____

Case #2:

A two-year old uncastrated male cat has been brought to your clinic by a little old lady who says she lets the cat out only on week-ends. For the past two weeks the cat has been losing weight and hasn't had any pep. Numerous scars on the young fighter's head tell you that this cat wasn't always as depressed as he is today. There is no temperature elevation but the mucous membranes are pale. You draw a blood sample and make a tentative diagnosis when you see how thin and watery the blood is.

Your tentative diagnosis is: _____

To confirm this you: _____

Case #3:

A young lady rushes into your clinic and tells you that she wants a white blood cell count done because she thinks her cat has "distemper." You ask her why she thinks her cat has "distemper" when she produces an apparently healthy three-month old kitten from under her coat. The young lady proceeds to tell you that the cat would not eat his supper last night and then later began walking in circles, couldn't seem to keep its balance, and then just sat in one place for four hours with a "far-away" look in his eyes. You ask her if she forced any food or medication down the kitten and she replies that she gave it several eye-droppers of milk and half an aspirin.

Your diagnosis is: _____

Case #4:

An obviously concerned owner brings a ten-month old female cat to your clinic. The owner states that this is the first cat that they have had in their household. She is convinced that the children have unknowingly injured its back, since the cat has been restless and in pain since yesterday. Whenever a member of the family picks the cat up she stiffens her back, kicks her hind legs and meows "in pain." This concerned client demands that you give the cat something to ease the pain. A quick examination of the cat reveals that indeed the symptoms described by the client are quite accurate. When palpated the cat flattens her back, elevates her hind quarters, treads with her back feet, and is quite vocal during this process. You use tact in describing your patient's "disease" to the owner.

Your diagnosis is: _____

(Case #5 and answers are on page 25)

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ture measured higher than what the thermometer could measure. All efforts to revive the lion with cold water and fans failed and he died later that day.

Many of the zoo animals are inquisitive and will eat almost anything fed to them. On the other hand some people enjoy feeding these animals anything they may have in their pockets. This can range from pennies to marbles to cigarettes. Dr. Schobert related one case of an ostrich that was having a severe diarrhea. The condition never cleared up and on necropsy several pennies were found in the gastrointestinal tract. This situation was partially remedied when a monorail was installed which eliminated most of the contact between the animals and the tourists.

When an animal is shipped out of Busch Gardens, a veterinarian must examine that animal and sign a health certificate stating that it is in good physical health. The United States Department of Agriculture maintains a strict control over the interstate shipping and entrance of new animals into the United States from foreign countries. Most of the animals that come into the United States have been quarantined in Europe for sixty days and are then quarantined in Clifton, New Jersey, again for thirty more days. From New Jersey

they are shipped to their final destination in the United States where they will spend the rest of their lives unless otherwise granted by the federal government.

So far this article has not included anything on the birds at Busch Gardens. This surely is not meant to imply they never need veterinary aid. On one occasion Salmonella was found to be the cause of a gastro-intestinal disturbance going through most of the birds in the Gardens. The birds made an uneventful recovery with treatment, but Dr. Schobert's job wasn't over yet. In an attempt to uncover the source of the Salmonella, the feed was analyzed and found to be negative. After more work and study it was found that mice were carrying the pathogen into the Gardens and contaminating the premises and feed. Throughout the year there are several fractured wings and legs that require pinning or splinting. To keep the migratory fowl in the Gardens, their wings are pinioned when they are only a few days old.

In this article I have briefly mentioned only a few of the many duties of a zoo veterinarian. With such a wide variety of species to work with, one can easily understand why there is no such thing as a routine day for a zoo practitioner.

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Case #5:

A female cocker spaniel is presented to your clinic for her annual distemper vaccination. You note a friction burn over the dog's left eye and ask the owner about this. He replies that she has been rubbing her head on the carpet. You start to examine the eye more closely and the cocker attempts to bite your hand. After instituting proper restraint, you observe congestion of the episcleral vessels and a cloudy cornea. The pupil is widely dilated and not responsive to light. You make a tentative diagnosis and proceed to confirm it.

Your diagnosis is: _____

To confirm it you: _____

Answers:

- 1) gastric torsion, surgical repositioning of the stomach, unfavorable
- 2) feline infection anemia, find the Haemobartonella organisms on a blood smear
- 3) salicylate (aspirin) toxicity
- 4) the cat is "in heat"
- 5) acute glaucoma, use ophthalmoscopic examination and tonometry ("cupping" of the optic disc, congestion of the vessels of the fundus, increased intraocular pressure)