

should be repeated annually. Starting at eight to ten weeks of age killed tissue canine distemper vaccine should be administered as it is in dogs. A complete immunization program also includes feline panleukopenia and leptospirosis vaccinations.

Other medical and surgical problems correspond quite closely to the domestic pet species. No unusual drug sensitivity has been reported in the skunk and dosages are similar to that recommended for dogs on a weight basis.

Under the proper circumstances the striped skunk can be expected to be an amiable pet with a life expectancy of seven to eight years. The veterinary profession should not condone this animal as a pet and should warn the owners of the hazards involved. However, if the animal is kept as a pet it is the veterinarian's responsibility to inform the owner of the proper care and treatment of the animal.

Skunks as Pets by Charles Hume (All Pets Book Inc., P. O. Box 151, Fond du lac, Wisconsin, 75¢) or other comparable reading should be recommended to the client as an additional source of information.

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What's Your Radiographic Diagnosis?

by
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History

A two and a half year old Appaloosa gelding was presented to the Stange Memorial Clinic for examination and diagnosis of a severe supporting lameness of the left rear leg.

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The owner related that two and one half months previous to the date of admission the animal jumped a fence escaping into a neighbor's field. The animal returned later in the day dragging the affected leg. A small open lesion was noted on the posterior-lateral aspect of the hock. Considerable swelling of the hock occurred during the next 24 hours, but this receded and



Lateral View of the left tarsal area.

the lesion healed after ten days of hot-packing. The gelding had not been able to support weight on the leg since the injury.

Examination of the leg revealed that the hock was enlarged to approximately twice normal size. The hock joint could be flexed and extended with little discomfort exhibited by the animal. The animal would not bear any appreciable weight upon the leg. A radiograph of the hock revealed a shattered fibular tarsal bone and the presence of metallic fragments scattered throughout the hock region. The animal was euthanized because of the severe and irreversible damage to the joint.

Post Mortem Findings

Multiple lead fragments were recovered. They appeared to be from a 12 or 16 gauge shotgun slug. The tibial tarsal bone was shattered. Extensive new bone formation, degenerative arthritis, and fibrosis were present in the hock joint.

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