

Radiographic Diagnosis

Figure 1:

A large amount of subcutaneous emphysema is present ventral to the cervical spine and dorsal to the trachea within the soft tissue extending into the cranial mediastinum. Air is also accumulated in the retropharyngeal space. The emphysema is most likely due to a penetrating wound through the esophageal wall and establishment of infection by a gas-forming organism such as *Clostridium*.

A barium swallow was made and no evidence of extravasation of barium into the soft tissues adjacent to the esophagus or esophageal obstruction was noted.

Figure 2:

Resolution of the cervical subcutaneous emphysema is seen. Increased bone production along the ventral borders of the cervical vertebrae indicates the development of spondylitis (infectious osteitis).

Comment

Although there was no laboratory confirmation of a Clostridial infection, similar cases from different herds yielded *Clostridium chauvoei* on postmortem examination. Many gas-producing anaerobes such as *Clostridium* have their habitat in the soil and gain entrance into the body during ingestion off pasture or through contaminated wounds. These organisms are able to invade tissues, multiply, and cause much destruction to surrounding tissues.

A Review of Upson's Handbook of Clinical Veterinary Pharmacology

by Franklin Ahrens, DVM, MS, PhD†

This book is a useful addition to the veterinary literature and should be welcomed by the student and practitioner alike. It is a concise review of the pharmacology and use of the major classes of drugs used in veterinary medicine. The first chapter includes an excellent review of basic principles, drug regulations, pharmaceuticals, and drug administration and withdrawal times. Principles of antibiotic use are covered in the final chapter. As stated in the preface, the book is not intended as a reference text in pharmacology but as a brief but complete synopsis of drugs currently used in veterinary medicine. The author plans a revised edition every two years. If this goal is fulfilled, the handbook will provide a continuous source of up-to-date information on veterinary drugs.

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