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A 22-Caliber Foreign Body

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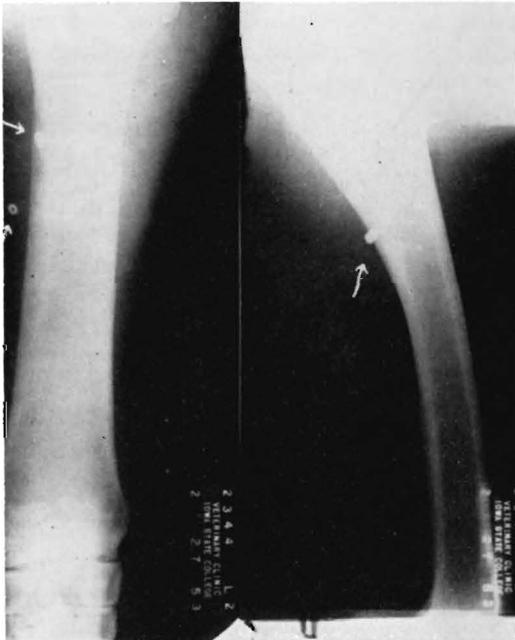
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6

A 22-Caliber Foreign Body. On Feb. 27, 1953, a five-year-old gelding was admitted to the Stange Memorial Clinic with a gunshot wound in the left foreleg. Questioning of the owner revealed that the animal had been shot accidentally with a 22-caliber rifle while the owner was attempting to destroy a stray dog. The patient had been lying in a stall when he was shot. It was also reported that the animal had been shot on February 26, and that on the same day a local veterinarian had attempted to remove the bullet but had failed. The local veterinarian then gave the patient penicillin and sent it to the clinic.



Lower left arrow indicates point of entry; other arrows, place of bullet lodgement.

Following admission to the clinic, lateral and anterior-posterior X-ray views of the left foreleg were taken. They showed the bullet to be lodged on the posterior-medial side of the leg and adjacent to the radius near the point of fusion with the ulna. The bullet was located nearly two and one-half inches above the point of entry.

The patient was taken to the stocks and 2 percent procaine hydrochloride was infiltrated around the wound. A probe was used to follow the path of the bullet and an attempt was made to remove it with forceps. When this failed, the patient was given 40 Gm. of chloral hydrate orally and restrained on the operating table. An incision about six inches long was made through the original wound and another attempt was made to locate the bullet. When it could not be found, the wound was packed with sterile gauze to control the hemorrhage and the skin was sutured to retain the pack.

The day following the operation, the patient was noticed to have a slight temperature rise. It was noted also that there was considerable swelling around the operative area. There was evidence of pain and the animal would put no weight on the affected leg. The appetite was not affected, nor were the bowel movements; but it was noted that the patient was sweating over the entire body.

On the second day following the operation, more swelling was noted in the operative area. The wound was oozing a serum-like exudate and the upper border of the wound was torn, perhaps in the effort required to rise from a prone to a standing position. The gauze packs were removed and 6,000,000 units of procaine penicillin in oil was administered intramuscularly. The penicillin therapy was continued on the third day and a hot-water pack was applied to the area for thirty minutes. It was noted that the temperature had risen to 102.6° F. The same treatment was continued on the fourth day.

Five days following the operation, necrotic tissue was visible in the wound. This tissue was removed, a hot pack was applied to the area and 3,000,000 units of penicillin in oil was given intramuscularly. Six days following the operation, more necrotic tissue was present in the wound. This tissue was removed and the same treatment as on previous days was given.

On the seventh day the animal was depressed and refused to eat. The heart

rate was quite rapid — 72 beats per minute. It was evident that the posterior portion of the elbow was beginning to degenerate and muscle tendons were prolapsing through the surgical wound. The skin incision was made longer in an attempt to establish better drainage. Hot packs were applied to the area for forty minutes and 3,000,000 units of penicillin in oil was given.

By the ninth day the tissue surrounding the original opening had the appearance of a thick gelatinous mass. The tissue around the articulation of the humerus and radius had broken down and the distal end of the humerus and the proximal end of the radius was exposed. The hot packs and penicillin were continued. On the tenth day following the operation, the temperature was 103° F. The patient was markedly depressed and was seen chewing the wound. The upper third of the radius was exposed. Euthanasia was recommended.

The animal was destroyed on March 11, 1953. Upon necropsy it was determined that the left median artery and nerve were severed at the level of the radial tuberosity and there was gangrene of the distal portion of the left foreleg. The bullet was not found and it was presumed that it had been discharged with the shreds of necrotic tissue.

Since extensive necrosis accompanying a gunshot wound is rather rare and since there was no apparent widespread infection in the animal, one can conclude that the necrosis of the leg was due primarily to the severance of the median artery and nerve.

John Bush, '54

7 **Necessity of Routine Thorough Examination Revealed.** On April 7, 1953, a cocker bitch was admitted to the Stange Memorial Clinic for an oophorohysterectomy. The operation was performed in the usual manner.

On April 9, the roll bandage over the operative area was removed and the patient given a general examination at this time. Palpation of the cervical region revealed an enlargement over the trachea about the middle of the neck. Closer examination revealed a rubber band around the neck; this had caused an inch long abrasion of the skin with encrustation of the exudate in the hair. The band had not been in place long enough to work to the skin at other points.

The dog was apparently relieved upon removal of the band. No treatment was indicated or administered. The wound was healing nicely when the patient was discharged five days later.

This case well illustrates the necessity of a thorough routine examination of all patients admitted to the care of the veterinarian regardless of the condition or treatment required.

James Howard, '54

Cysticercosis of feed-lot fattened cattle in the Salt River Valley, Ariz., was traced to the contamination of irrigation ditches and fields by a few ranch workers who were carriers of the beef tapeworm, *Taenia saginata*. The condition was controlled by the detection and treatment of the human carriers and the provision of suitable toilet facilities.

Feeding heads of poultry that have been treated by stilbestrol implantation may be responsible for some reproductive failures observed by some fur-bearing animal breeders.

In some cattle breeds, there appears to be a tendency toward prolapse of the prepuce. If this organ is injured, the tissue becomes edematous and finally develops a permanent thickening. A stricture is thus formed and the bull is useless for breeding. Treatment recommended is surgical removal of the thickened portion of the prepuce.