Contracted Tendons in a Colt

Raymond Helvig

Iowa State College

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A brown and white American Saddle colt, 10 days old, was brought to the Iowa State College Veterinary Clinic on May 28, 1940, with exaggerated contraction of the flexor tendons of both carpi. The legs were flexed at the carpal joints in such a way that when the colt was standing, the carpi were in an abnormal antero-lateral position.

The following day the colt was prepared for the operation and the operative area was anesthetized with a 2 percent procaine solution. An incision 1 1/2 inches long was made on the posterolateral aspect of the right carpus. The tendons of the flexor carpi ulnaris and the ulnaris lateralis were then severed in an attempt to allow the leg to completely extend itself. A bipp pack was bandaged over the incision and reapplied daily.

On June 4, a similar operation was performed on the left leg, and in 8 days the colt was discharged showing marked improvement in both legs but still far from normal. When observed in August, the colt was found to have completely recovered from the condition for which it was treated, both as to the position and the action of the front legs.