Ruptured Lung in a Horse

R. Steven Kufrin

Iowa State College

Follow this and additional works at: https://lib.dr.iastate.edu/iowastate_veterinarian

Part of the Large or Food Animal and Equine Medicine Commons, and the Veterinary Pathology and Pathobiology Commons

Recommended Citation

Kufrin, R. Steven (1940) "Ruptured Lung in a Horse," Iowa State University Veterinarian: Vol. 3 : Iss. 1 , Article 7.
Available at: https://lib.dr.iastate.edu/iowastate_veterinarian/vol3/iss1/7

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Journals at Iowa State University Digital Repository. It has been accepted for inclusion in Iowa State University Veterinarian by an authorized editor of Iowa State University Digital Repository. For more information, please contact digirep@iastate.edu.
Ruptured Lung in a Horse

R. Steven Kufrin
Class of 1941

On July 30, 1940, a call came in concerning a four-year-old sorrel mare which the owner had diagnosed as having "colic". Upon arrival at the farm, the following history was given. The mare had been on a bundle-wagon hauling loads for a long distance over soft ground. Apparently the horse was normal until she reached the threshing machine, where she fell. They immediately unhitched her and, noting the unilateral epistaxis, claimed that the mare had hit the machine with her head. The mare soon arose and was led to a nearby grove. There had been no change in the feed.

Upon examination it was evident that the mare had been tossing and rolling on the ground; this was confirmed by the owner. The animal was greatly depressed, temperature 105.4°; the pulse was imperceptible, the breathing slightly dyspneic, the mucous membranes were rather pale and evidence of unilateral epistaxis was present. No peristalsis could be detected on auscultation. A tentative diagnosis of intestinal torsion was made.

The horse was given one-half gallon of liquid petrolatum and one fluid ounce each of Fladex. of Nux Vomica and Fladex. of Gentian. Instructions were given to leave the patient where she was, to observe her frequently and to report in two hours concerning her condition. The expected call did not come in so a follow-up was made the following morning. The mare had died, and post-mortem was suggested to find the cause of the death.

On post-mortem the intestines were normal in every respect and the mineral oil was found to have entered the small intestine. When the diaphragm was removed, blood gushed from the thoracic cavity. Upon careful examination of the organs in the thoracic cavity, a tear about three inches long was found in the left lung. This tear was found on the dorso-posterior diaphragmatic surface, parallel to the basal border.

Since the post-mortem was performed at the rendering plant, the owner was not present. After much explanation he was convinced that the mare had overexerted herself resulting in the rupture of the lung.

Malignant Edema in a Mare

LeRoy T. Christensen
Class of 1942

The patient was a bay grade mare. At the time of the morning feeding the animal's tongue was swollen to such an extent that the animal was unable to eat. The animal had been observed by the owner at intervals during the morning. The veterinarian was called at noon for the horse seemed to be much worse. When he arrived the animal was lying upon its side, breathing heavily, and greatly depressed. The mouth was held open by the swollen tongue. Observation of the tongue showed the dorsum to be in a nearly normal condition, but the base of the tongue was pale and greatly swollen. The swelling caused the base of the tongue to completely fill the inter-mandibular space, pressing out against the cheek teeth, and extended as far forward as the mandibular symphysis, which also forced the lower jaw down. Before any treatment could be undertaken the animal expired.

Post-mortem incision of the swollen area released a gelatinous exudate with a faint reddish tinge. A diagnosis of malignant edema was made. The infection was probably introduced by a splinter or an awn entering the tissues at the base of the tongue. Death was probably due to toxins released, while the partial occluding of the pharynx by the swollen tongue acted as an accessory factor. The owner was advised to dispose of the carcass by burning or by removal to a rendering plant.

The Veterinary Student