

1959

Cervical Arthritis in the Dog

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the remaining animal, the digestive processes and feces returned to normal. The appetite improved and the degree of hyperexcitability, trembling and incoordination was greatly reduced. There remained, however, evidence of brain damage.

In this case, an overwhelming number of coccidia in the intestinal epithelium, and the associated tissue destruction could possibly be the source of toxins. The toxins may also be of enteric origin causing damage to the intestinal epithelium and are absorbed because of altered permeability or selective absorption of the intestinal mucosa.

Some central nervous system symptoms may be caused by intoxications that are the result of gradual depletion of the detoxifying processes of the body. There may be some permanent brain damage from these intoxications, resulting in an incomplete recovery.

B. W. Donelan '59

C. W. Howe '59

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Cervical Arthritis in the Dog.

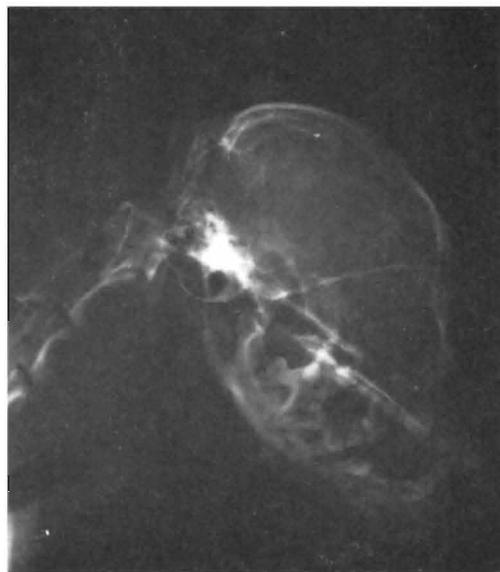
On Oct. 4, 1958, an 8-year-old spayed female dog of the Pomeranian type was presented to Stange Memorial Clinic. The dog had a very stiff, tense neck which could not be moved without the animal eliciting extreme pain. The condition had first appeared last April and became progressively worse.

On examination it was observed that the neck could not be moved from side to side or up and down without a great deal of discomfort to the dog. It was noted that the teeth needed cleaning. A total leucocyte count was made and found to be within the normal limits.

The dog was given 200 mg. of Butazolidin (Jensen. Salsbery's brand of phenylbutazone) daily for three days. No apparent relief was evident within that time, consequently, one tablet of V-Sinan (Mephenesin) was administered twice daily.

On October 10 an x-ray was taken of the head, cervical and anterior thoracic area. The radiograph revealed several interesting facts. There was a cervical

arthritis, evidenced by a "lipping" of several of the cervical vertebra. It was also evident that a number of teeth were involved with abscesses at their roots.



Radiograph of head and neck showing abscessed molars and "lipping" of first few cervical vertebra.

It was thought that the teeth were a definite etiological factor in the cervical arthritis. The dental involvement appeared to be one that had existed for a long period of time. It was thought that toxic substances from the abscesses were drained by the vertebral venous system and caused the arthritis to occur. It was theorized that a stagnation of the toxic substances occurred in the veins in the cervical region because the vertebral veins do not have valves and eventually produced an arthritis. Similar cases of arthritis of the vertebra of the lumbar area have been known to occur as the result of a chronic prostatic infection.

The dog was anesthetized with 3 cc. of 4 percent Surital (Parke-Davis & Co.) and all visually involved teeth were extracted. One cc. of Antibiotic Combination No. 1 (Corn States Lab. penicillin and streptomycin) was given twice daily until the day of the dog's release. By October 14 the dog showed a marked improvement and the animal was discharged the following day.

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