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Black Tongue in a Dog

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Black Tongue in a Dog. On March 24, 1943, a one and one-half year old Cairn Terrior was presented to the Stange Memorial Clinic. The history presented with the patient was that the dog had been vomiting, was not eating, and had a diarrhea. The dog had been sick for a couple of days. It was reported that the dog had had canine distemper when a pup.

Upon examination the dog showed a diffuse erythematous stomatitis with some ulceration of the gingiva at the dental line. Also there was an extensive mottling of the dental enamel, which characteristically showed the effect of distemper before eruption of the permanent teeth. A copious, chocolate colored insalivation was present and a particularly offensive odor was noted on the breath. From the history and present symptoms, the condition was tentatively diagnosed as black tongue.

Also the examination revealed that the left anal gland was enlarged and inflamed. The gland ruptured during the next day, and hemorrhagic pus exuded from the fistula. This infected anal gland was treated in the customary manner.

Treatment of the black tongue consisted of administering vitamin B complex subcutaneously. During the first two days 10 cc. were administered daily followed by 5 cc. for each of the next eight days. The dog made a complete recovery and was discharged on the eleventh day after entrance.

The vitamin B complex used in the treatment contained nicotinamide, thiamin hydrochloride, and riboflavin. This type of product is specifically indicated as black tongue is a deficiency of nicotinic acid. However, there is often a deficiency in the other members of the complex, so they are also included in the treatment. The other members of the complex serve as catalysts to the nicotinic acid.

Black tongue is a condition which is becoming increasingly prevalent, because it is more difficult to procure proper food for dogs. It has been demonstrated that the presence of fresh meat, fresh milk, eggs, liver, kidneys, and spleen in the diet will prevent the occurrence of this condition. The addition of dried yeast or other vitamin supplements will help prevent it.

—Don DeVaiola, ’44

Dermoids in Calves. On the morning of April 1, 1943, four Hereford calves varying in age from three to ten days were presented at the Stange Memorial Clinic. Three of them were females; the other was a male. All were in excellent general condition. The history revealed that the calves were having eye