1954

Amputation of the Hind Leg of a Dog

Conrad Steiner

Iowa State College

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

Part of the Small or Companion Animal Medicine Commons, and the Veterinary Anatomy Commons

Recommended Citation

Available at: https://lib.dr.iastate.edu/iowastate_veterinarian/vol16/iss1/13

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.
Time  Temperature  Respirations  Bowels
(per minute)

9:15 a.m.  101.6
10:15 101.4
11:15 102.4 ........ .40 ........ no diarrhea
12:15 p.m.  104.2 ........ .45 ........ slight diarrhea
1:15  104.8 ........ .48 ........ loose bowels
2:15  105.0 ........ .53 ........ no diarrhea
3:10  104.6 ........ .40 ........ no diarrhea
4:15  104.0 ........ .65
5:05  103.4
8:20 a.m.  101.0

A temperature rise of 1.5 degrees or more over the pre-injection temperature is considered positive. The physical reaction of diarrhea, chills and dyspnea are often present. The Intradermal Johnin Test can also be used to diagnose this disease. This test requires a single injection in the caudal fold, vulva or skin on the side of the neck and is read in 48 hours. A positive reaction is evidenced by a diffuse swelling 3 mm. or more in thickness at the site of injection.

Necropsy revealed the following lesions: (1) pronounced thickening of the mucosa of the intestinal tract typical of paratuberculosis; (2) numerous acid-fast organisms were found in the intestinal mucosa and in the regional lymph nodes.

This case demonstrates the value of running an Avian Tuberculin Test on any chronic intestinal disorder in cattle characterized by recurrent diarrhea and progressive emaciation.

**Kenneth Turner, '54**

---

6

**Amputation of the Hind Leg of a Dog.** A four-year-old Collie was admitted to Stange Memorial Clinic on April 4, 1953, with the left hind leg severely injured at the region of the tarsus. Examination revealed that the joint capsule was exposed, tendons and muscles severed and that there was only a piece of skin and muscle attaching the distal portion of the limb to the tarsus.

The patient was placed on the operating table and the area of the leg and flank were prepared for surgery. Pentobarbital sodium was given intravenously to effect, and 2 cc. of oxalic and malonic acids (Koagamin) was injected intramuscularly to help control hemorrhage.

The site selected for amputation was just above the stifle joint with the removal of the distal end of the femur in mind. A semi-elliptical incision was made on the lateral side of the leg just above the stifle joint and a similar incision made approximately one-fourth inch more dorsally on the medial side. Subcutaneous hemorrhage was controlled with hemostats. The saphenous artery and vein were isolated on the medial side, ligated with catgut and severed. Muscles, tendons, nerves and blood vessels were cut laterally, anteriorly and medially to expose the distal portion of the femur. Hemorrhage was again controlled with hemostats. The femur was cut with a saw so that the end of the bone was approximately three-fourths to one inch shorter than the surrounding muscles, thus providing tissue to cover the severed bone when the incision was closed. Ligatures of catgut were applied where necessary and the hemostats removed. Interrupted sutures of catgut placed about one inch apart in the superficial fascia were used to close the wound, and continuous sutures were inserted between them to give added strength and security. The skin was closed with interrupted sutures of nylon.

Post-operative care consisted of administering 500 cc. of 5 percent dextrose subcutaneously, 800,000 units of penicillin and 1 Gm. of streptomycin intramuscularly. The antibiotic therapy was continued for four days with administrations every 12 hours and gradually decreasing the dosages each day.

The patient was up and walking around the day following the operation. There was a small amount of swelling present, but the sutures were all in place and the skin in good apposition. The patient proceeded to make an uneventful recovery with the incision clean and dry at all times. The sutures were removed the sixth day following the operation and the incision was completely healed at this time. The patient was discharged on April 16.

**Conrad Steiner, '54**

_Iowa State College Veterinarian_