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Rib Resection in a Bovine

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Terrier has been treated for chronic pancreatitis as an outpatient since April 30, 1955. On May 5, 1955, an 8-year-old female Beagle was hospitalized for 13 days. The most recent chronic pancreatitis diagnosis was made in an 8-year-old male Cocker Spaniel on Sept. 24, 1955. This Cocker was treated as an outpatient.

Similar histories and symptoms were present in all four dogs. They all had loose, fatty, clay-colored stools. Polyphagia, polydipsia, polyuria, emaciation, and enlarged abdomens were present. All of the dogs were negative for parasite ova.

The following results were found in the blood analysis of the Border Collie: total red blood cell, 7,000,000; total white blood cell, 20,600; eosinophils, 400; stabs, 4,900; segments, 12,300; lymphocytes, 300; and hemoglobin, 14.65 Gm. or 101%. The 8-year-old Beagle had the following blood analysis: total red blood cell, 7,700,000; total white blood cell, 11,540; eosinophils, 700; stabs, 3,200; segments, 6,000; monocytes, 200; lymphocytes, 1,600; and hemoglobin, 11.88 Gm. or 81.9%. Also present in the Beagle’s report was a blood sugar level of 200 plus, mg. The urine sugar was 1 plus on May 23, 1955.

The x-ray film method was used to help confirm the diagnosis of chronic pancreatitis in all these cases, except for the Border Collie. This test was conducted in the following manner. A small amount of stool was placed on an undeveloped piece of x-ray film for one-half hour. The feces were then washed off gently and a check was made to see if the gelatin layer of the film was digested. Since the gelatin was still present, it was assumed that the pancreatic enzymes were not present in these three dogs. This test was run several times on each dog to confirm the diagnosis.

All four of the above animals are still living and are under continuous treatment to replace the missing pancreatic enzymes. The Border Collie was treated twice daily with a tablet containing ox bile, pancreatin and pepsin, while in the clinic in 1951. The above tablet, a product of Eli Lilly and Co., Indianapolis, Indiana, is no longer available, so the dog is now on panteric®, B. I. D., (5 gr. pancreatic extract tablets manufactured by Parke, Davis & Co., Detroit, Mich.)

Panteric, B. I. D., before meals, was dispensed to both the 8-year-old male Cocker Spaniel and the 8-year-old female Terrier. Along with this, the Terrier is being fed a diet made up of ½ K/D® and ½ P/D®, (dietetic dog food manufactured by Hill Packing Co. of Topeka, Kansas) plus 1 dr. of paladac® (Parke, Davis and Co., Detroit, Michigan.)

On May 24, 1951 while in the clinic, the 8-year-old Beagle was given 1 can of K/D dog food, 1 tablespoon MWR-352®, (a nutritional supplement by Jensen-Salsbery Laboratories, Inc. of Kansas City, Missouri) 8 units of protamine zinc insulin® I. M. (Eli Lily and Co., Indianapolis, Indiana) and 1 panteric 5 gr. tablet. Treatment continued the next day. Following these 2 days of treatment, the bowels were reported normal, the appetite was fair and the urine sample was negative for sugar. On May 25, 1955, the dog was fed K/D and two pancretic tablets. On the 26th, the color and consistancy of the stool looked practically normal. The dog was continued on K/D and two pancretic tablets until May 29, 1955, when it was discharged from the clinic.

— Phillip Pearson '56

Rib Resection in a Bovine. On December seventh a 6-year-old Holstein cow was admitted to Stange Memorial Clinic as a “Hardware” suspect. Physical examination revealed a slightly elevated temperature, absence of pain in the sternal region, increased respiratory sounds over the entire right lung, absence of respiratory sounds in the left lung, and a rapid, weak heartbeat. The jugular pulse was very distinct and the subcutaneous abdominal vein on the right side was greatly distended. Blood analysis revealed a white blood cell count of 26,000 indicating a marked leukocytosis. A differential white count revealed; immature
neutrophils, 10,400; mature neutrophils 10,600; lymphocytes 5,000.

On the morning of the following day 20 cc. of foul smelling fluid was aspirated from the left side of the pleural cavity. In the afternoon approximately 2½ gal. of fluid were removed by way of a cannula inserted into the left pleural cavity. It was determined by percussion that fluid filled about half of the left pleural cavity.

The following day 2 gal. of fluid were again removed from the pleural cavity using a cannula. The cavity was flushed, through the cannula, with 1 gal. of saline. Three million units of penicillin and .5 Gm. of tetracycline were injected into the pleural cavity through the cannula. It was decided to remove a section of rib to establish a permanent avenue of drainage.

The area over the sixth rib was clipped, shaved and disinfected. The subcutaneous and deep structures over the sixth rib were infiltrated with 4 percent procaine. A skin incision was made over the rib from a point 6 inches above the costal-chondral junction down to the costal-chondral junction. The muscles were then incised and removed down to the periosteum of the rib. The periosteum was peeled back from the rib. A wire obstetrical saw was inserted under the sixth rib. It was cut through, about 5 inches above the costal-chondral junction. The rib was disarticulated at the costal-chondral junction and the cut portion removed. The skin was brought in and sutured to the costal pleura which was greatly thickened. An incision was made in the pleura to drain the pleural cavity.

The animal was severely depressed for several days following the operation. Five hundred cubic centimeters of 50 percent dextrose were administered intravenously for several days. The abscess cavity was flushed with mild potassium permanganate solution daily for 25 days and sulfa-urea healing powder was placed in the wound. The animal steadily improved in appetite and general appearance. The abscess cavity appeared to be filling from the inside toward the outside with granulation tissue. A thick, purulent exudate appeared in the wound daily. This was removed as much as possible with gauze swabs.

Twenty-five days post-operative, flushing of the wound with potassium permanganate was discontinued. Sulfa-urea healing powder was still placed in the wound daily and any exudate that appeared was removed with gauze swabs.

At the time of this writing the animal has been convalescing for 37 days. The abscess cavity is slowly filling with granulation tissue. No secondary areas of abscessation appear to be forming. The general condition of the animal has improved greatly.

— Charles Sheldon '56

Electronic equipment has been developed in England to locate live sheep under several feet of snow. Previously dogs were trained to smell the sheep but could not distinguish between the live ones and those that had expired.