

1960

A Case of Ctenocephalidiasis

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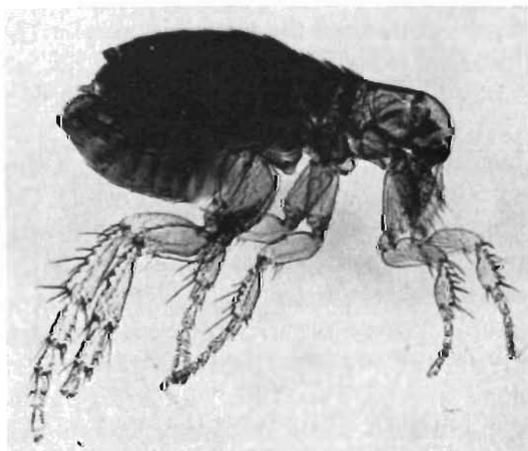
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CLINICAL MEDICINE

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A Case of Ctenocephalidiasis. A sixteen month old female cocker spaniel with diagnosis unknown was admitted to the Stange Memorial Clinic at the request of a referring veterinarian. The dog had been anorexic and depressed four days prior to being admitted. She was in a semi-comatose condition with spasmodic trembling of the body, the mucous membranes were pale and the temperature subnormal. There was evidence of blood in the feces. A poor prognosis was given because the animal was in a moribund condition.

A close examination revealed that the dog's body was almost completely covered by fleas and some lice. Ctenocephalidiasis was given as the primary diagnosis with a secondary diagnosis of phthiriasis. The dog was given a medicated bath using Fleavol (Norden Laboratories). Two hundred fifty cc. of 5% dextrose and 1 cc. Vitamin B Complex were given subcutaneously.



Ctenocephalides Canis

(Courtesy of Vet. Path. & Parasitology, Iowa State University)

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The following day the dog was somewhat improved, but still anorexic and dehydrated. A blood transfusion was given on two successive days. The dog's appetite increased and dehydration disappeared; the mucous membranes became more normal in color. For four days the dog received one oral ferrous sulfate tablet daily. After ten days of hospitalization, the dog was released. Thirty ferrous sulfate tablets were dispensed; one to be given daily.

This case was submitted for publication to stress the importance of not overlooking the too obvious in arriving at a diagnosis. Fleas are so common that they usually are never considered to be a possible prime factor in the cause of illness in animals.

Forrest Trafton, '60