What's Your Radiographic Diagnosis?

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Skunks as Pets by Charles Hume (All Pets Book Inc., P. O. Box 151, Fon du lac, Wisconsin, 75¢) or other comparable reading should be recommended to the client as an additional source of information.

REFERENCES

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What's Your Radiographic Diagnosis?

by
R. L. Lundvall, D.V.M., M.S.*

History

A two and a half year old Appaloosa gelding was presented to the Stange Memorial Clinic for examination and diagnosis of a severe supporting lameness of the left rear leg. The owner related that two and one half months previous to the date of admission the animal jumped a fence escaping into a neighbor's field. The animal returned later in the day dragging the affected leg. A small open lesion was noted on the posterior-lateral aspect of the hock. Considerable swelling of the hock occurred during the next 24 hours, but this receded and

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the lesion healed after ten days of hot-packing. The gelding had not been able to support weight on the leg since the injury.

Examination of the leg revealed that the hock was enlarged to approximately twice normal size. The hock joint could be flexed and extended with little discomfort exhibited by the animal. The animal would not bear any appreciable weight upon the leg. A radiograph of the hock revealed a shattered fibular tarsal bone and the presence of metallic fragments scattered throughout the hock region. The animal was euthanized because of the severe and irreversible damage to the joint.

Post Mortem Findings

Multiple lead fragments were recovered. They appeared to be from a 12 or 16 gauge shotgun slug. The tibial tarsal bone was shattered. Extensive new bone formation, degenerative arthritis, and fibrosis were present in the hock joint.

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