1995

Class News

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“What’s Your Radiographic Diagnosis?” from Page 76

Radiographic Diagnosis
The differential diagnoses for this thoracic appearance are mycotic pneumonia (blastomycosis or histoplasmosis, or coccidioidomycosis), allergic bronchitis-pneumonitis, pulmonary lymphosarcoma or metastatic neoplasia, with the latter two less likely due to the age of the dog.

Clinical Diagnosis
A trans tracheal wash yielded many yeast type organisms consistent with blastomycosis. The dog did not survive to initiation of treatment. At necropsy there was disseminated blastomycosis with severe involvement of the lung and an abscess overlying the right temporal lobe of the brain that extended along the ventral aspect of the brainstem.

Discussion
Blastomycosis is caused by the fungal organism *Blastomyces dermatitides*, a soil saprophyte that is endemic to the Great Lakes region and the Mississippi, Ohio and St. Lawrence River Valleys. There is a high incidence of canine blastomycosis and histoplasmosis in Iowa. Coccidioidomycosis is not endemic in Iowa but exposure should be excluded by questions regarding travel to the Southwestern states. Canine blastomycosis can be manifest by three clinical forms: primary pulmonary, disseminated disease and focal cutaneous disease. The dog acquires the organism by inhalation of spores or inoculation of spores into the skin. Presentation of the disease is widely varied depending on the system involved and can include anorexia, fever, lethargy, cough and/or dyspnea, ocular signs, ulcerated and draining skin lesions and lameness if a skeletal lesion is present. In a large study, male dogs were much more commonly affected than females and the larger breeds of dogs were at greater risk. Peak age of dogs affected is two to four years old. Prognosis worsens with increased severity of lung lesions, increased absolute nonsegmented neutrophil numbers and male gender. In the case reported here the absolute nonsegmented neutrophil number was 23 times greater than the upper normal range for our laboratory.

The milia.ry nodular interstitial lung pattern is a classical appearance of thoracic radiographs of dogs with blastomycosis, histoplasmosis and coccidioidomycosis. Blastomycosis can show a radiographic pattern of diffuse ill-defined interstitial to broncho-interstitial opacity to occasional alveolar consolidation. Radiographic tracheal-bronchial lymph node enlargement is variable in blastomycosis and generally less common than with either histoplasmosis or coccidioidomycosis.

References

Class News

Class of 1997

Chloe Laie Johnson was born on July 15, 1995, her father’s, Brent Johnson’s, birthday. Zane Roberts born December 19, 1994 to Lana Roberts.

Heather Siedschlag married Phil Kay on July 1, 1995.

One of Patti Meiser’s English springer spaniels earned his AKC Championship Title on October 14, 1995.

Class of 1999

Cari Fields married Tony Schaffer on September 2, 1995.