The Manga

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Veterinary Association of Namibia

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE VETERINARY ASSOCIATION OF NAMIBIA

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PRESIDENT'S DESK

Dear Colleagues,

I know we are well into this year already, but still: All the best wishes for 2024!

From our side we've had a productive start with our first CPD events "Small Animal Endocrinology" and "Equine Lameness and Dentistry" just 3 weeks ago. Thank you to the VAN organising team and also to all members who attended! It was good to see everyone!

We are looking at ways of adding value to your VAN-membership and have some exciting new developments, which we will share in due time.

We are planning on organising more CPDs this year, but don't have fixed dates yet. Please check the calendar in this Manga for a preview.

Furthermore, we would like to do our part in helping to eradicate rabies in Namibia - information pertaining to this will also be sent to you soon.

To those who are attending the WVA Congress in Cape Town - have a great time! I'm sure it will be amazing!

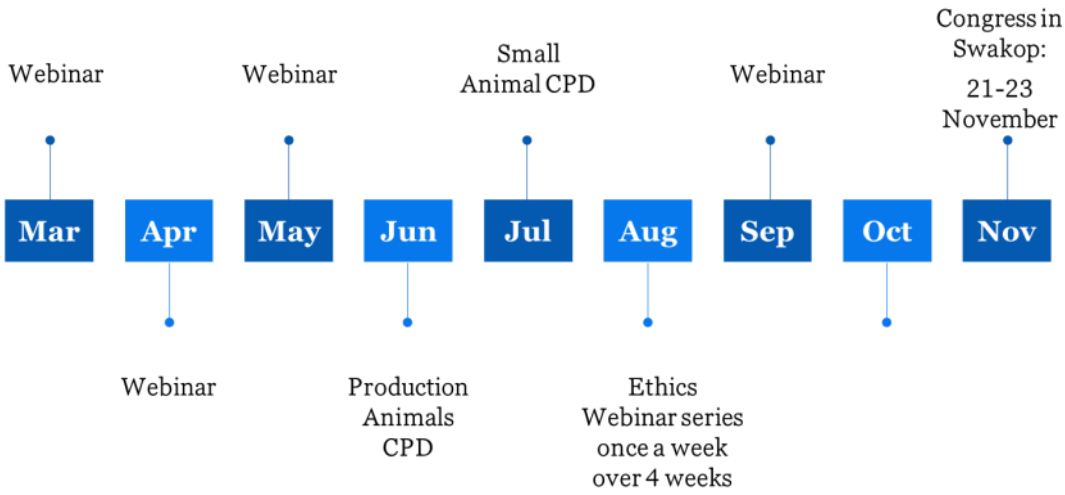
I hope to see everyone soon at one of the CPDs.

May you all be blessed with enough rain,

Alexandra Marko
-VAN Chairperson

VAN NEWS: EXCO 2024

We have many activities planned for the year! Here is a quick preview of the year ahead:



10th-11th of February: CPD Weekend

On Saturday the 10th of February we held a Small Animal Endocrinology CPD with Prof Johan Schoeman at the Utopia Boutique in Windhoek. The event was well attended by 26 participants.

On Sunday morning the 11th of February, we hosted an Equine CPD and Wetlab with 18 participants at Kapps Farm. Dr Jolandie van der Westhuizen prepared a lecture and wetlab on equine dentistry, while Dr Fred van der Linde spoke on equine lameness followed by a wetlab on nerve blocks and the lameness exam.

A big thank you to our sponsors for making these events possible:

UNAM, Nampharm, MSD, Swavet and Geka Pharmacy.

Photo: Vincent Sevenster

Endocrinology CPD

Photo: Vincent Sevenster

Drs Courtney Geyser, Mercelin Gawanas, Puna Kazapua & Olebile Olibile
Photo: Alexandra Marko

Prof Johan Schoeman
Photo: Vincent Sevenster

ENDOCRINOLOGY CPD

Drs Minty Soni, Antje Zahradnicky & Saskia Stam

Photo: Alexandra Marko

"To catch the reader's attention, place an

Drs Jens Kahler, Alexandra Duvel, Minty Soni and Antje Zahradnicky

Photo Credit (left and right): Alexandra Marko

Photo: Vincent Sevenster

EQUINE CPD & WET LAB

Dr Jolandie van der Westhuizen lecturing on equine dentistry

Photo: Chanel van der Merwe

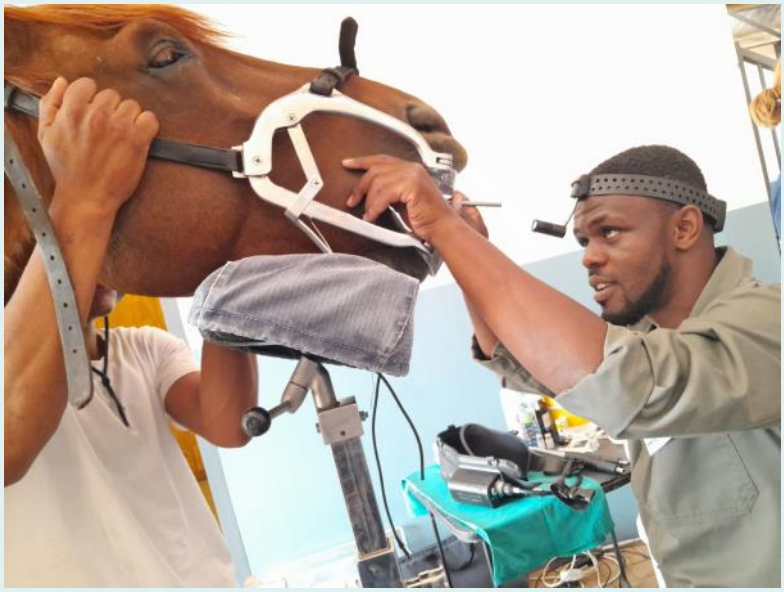
Dr Fred van der Linde lecturing on equine lameness

Photo: Chanel van der Merwe

Drs Jens Kahler, Fred van der Linde, Gernot Redecker, Maaike de Schepper and Franz Klein

Photo: Chanel v/ d Merwe

EQUINE CPD & WET LAB



Dr Puna Kazapua performing a dental examination

Photo: Chanel van der Merwe

Photo: Chanel van der Merwe

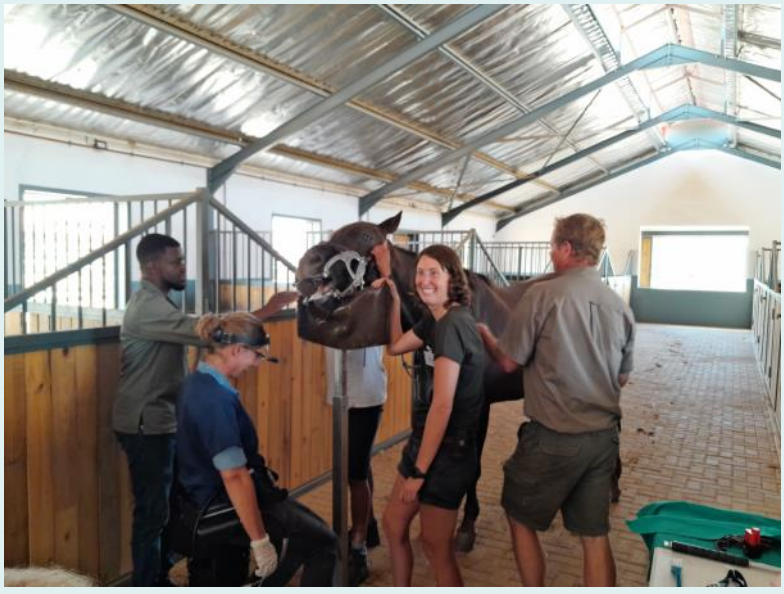


Photo: Chanel van der Merwe

CANINE CASE REPORT

By: Dr Minty Soni

A 3-year old intact male Labrador Retriever with a history of ingesting socks presented with the primary complaint of anorexia of a few days' duration. Two weeks earlier he had an episode of vomiting, however at that point in time the owners did not perceive it to be a problem that needed further investigation.

On presentation he was lethargic, slightly tachypnoeic and tense on abdominal palpation. His mucous membranes were slightly pale, the rest of the physical examination was unremarkable.

Blood smear: mild mature neutrophilia, marked monocytosis and marked thrombocytosis. No *Ehrlichia canis* morulae were seen.

Point-of-care ultrasonography revealed mild effusion in both, the thoracic and abdominal cavities. The spleen and liver had hypoechoic nodular regions.

Effusion from both cavities was sampled, centrifuged and multiple cytologies made of the sediment:

Both effusions looked similar on cytological examination:

Large amounts of erythrocytes, few lymphocytes, but the striking features were the large cells with bluish cytoplasm and large nucleus with features of malignancy, like multiple nucleoli as seen below:

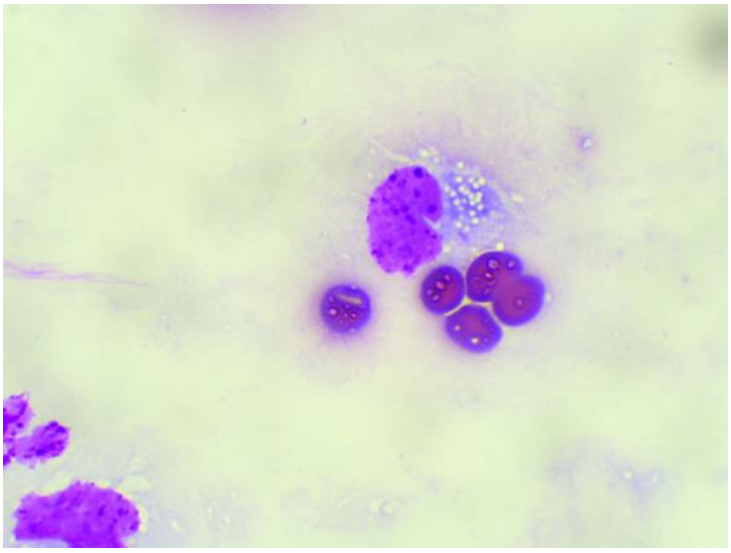


Figure 1:

Effusion cytology

CANINE CASE REPORT

Ultrasound-guided Fine Needle Aspirates were performed of the nodules on the spleen: Sheets of sarcoma-like neoplastic cells were seen, including some mitotic figures (see arrow in Figure 2 below).

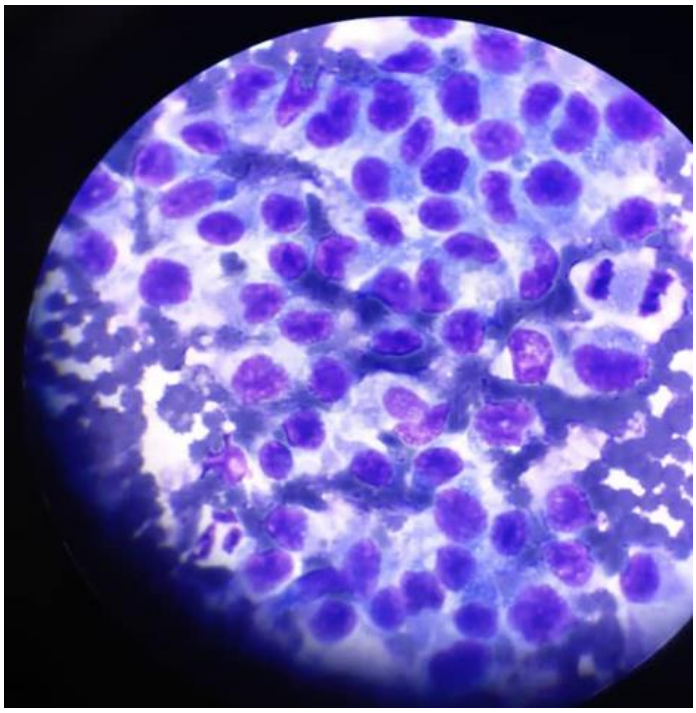


Figure 2: FNA of spleen

Test	Results	Reference Interval	LOW / NORMAL / HIGH
Catalyst One (06 December 2023 12:26 PM)			
GLU	5.86 mmol/L	4.11 - 7.95	
CREA	91 µmol/L	44 - 159	
UREA	4.4 mmol/L	2.5 - 9.6	
BUN/CREA	12		
PHOS	1.58 mmol/L	0.81 - 2.20	
CA	2.06 mmol/L	1.98 - 3.00	
TP	53 g/L	52 - 82	
ALB	22 g/L	23 - 40	LOW
GLOB	31 g/L	25 - 45	
ALB/GLOB	0.7		
ALT	538 U/L	10 - 125	HIGH
ALKP	773 U/L	23 - 212	HIGH
GGT	6 U/L	0 - 11	
TBIL	24 µmol/L	0 - 15	HIGH
CHOL	3.93 mmol/L	2.84 - 8.26	
AMYL	1046 U/L	500 - 1500	
LIPA	231 U/L	200 - 1800	
Na	141 mmol/L	144 - 160	LOW
K	4.5 mmol/L	3.5 - 5.8	
Na/K	31		
Cl	110 mmol/L	109 - 122	
Osm Calc	281 mmol/kg		

Figure 3: Biochemistry

CANINE CASE REPORT

Highly suspicious of a sarcoma, the most likely differentials were: Histiocytic sarcoma or systemic histiocytosis.

However, histopathology samples were necessary for a definitive diagnosis. The owners, aware of the anaesthetic complications and likely poor prognosis still wanted a diagnosis and agreed to general anaesthesia and exploratory laparotomy.

Within the next day, the pleural and peritoneal effusion increased drastically, hence a thoracocentesis was performed to remove as much pleural effusion as possible prior to general anaesthesia. About 480ml of thoracic effusion was removed prior to the surgery. A mechanical ventilator was available for ventilatory support during the anaesthetic.

These were the exploratory laparotomy findings: Clear serous abdominal effusion filling the abdominal cavity. Liver and spleen had multiple raised nodules covering the serosal layer. These nodules ranged from 0.2mm to about 2cm as seen in the photograph. Biopsies of these nodules were taken and sent to a histopathologist for diagnosis.

Figure 4

In the meantime, while awaiting histopathology results, prednisolone therapy of 1mg per kg was commenced. Initially the owner wanted to try treatment, but the clinical condition of the the dog deteriorated. The thoracic effusion kept forming and the dog's respiration continued to be laboured for the next 2 days. The owner considered his dog to be suffering, due to the dyspnoea, along with the inappetence and hence opted for euthanasia.

The liver and spleen samples were still submitted for histopathology, which confirmed the presence of a sarcoma, the differentials being hemangiosarcoma or histiocytic sarcoma. Given the acute onset, the severe pleural and abdominal effusion, the histiocytic cells on cytology and the aggressive nature of the disease from the onset, the diagnosis of systemic histiocytosis was made.

CANINE CASE DISCUSSION

Discussion:

Histiocytic sarcomas can be cutaneous or disseminated involving multiple organs. They are a group of malignant disease process that have poor prognosis. Bone marrow cells of monocytic/ macrophagic lineage or dendritic cells are responsible for the process[1]. A build-up of histiocytes in various tissues can cause damage to the tissues and organs.
Cutaneous histiocytomas are usually solitary lesions in young dogs that might spontaneously resolve or need to be excised and rarely metastasise. However disseminated systemic histiocytosis is an aggressive, rapidly metastasising disease of the canine species affecting mostly middle aged Golden Retrievers and Bernese mountain dogs[2]. The most commonly noted clinical symptoms are lethargy, anorexia and weight loss. These histiocytes mostly infiltrate the spleen, liver and lungs, but other organs can be affected. Due to the non-specific nature of the symptoms and low incidence, this disease is easily missed.

References:

1.Fulmer AK, Mauldin GE. Canine histiocytic neoplasia: an overview. *Can Vet J*. 2007 Oct;48 (10):1041-3, 1046-50. PMID: 17987966; PMCID: PMC1978291.

2. Erich SA, Dobson JM, Teske E. Comparison of the Clinical Characteristics of Histiocytic Sarcoma in Bernese Mountain Dogs and Flat-Coated Retrievers. *Vet Sci*. 2022 Sep 11;9(9):498. doi: 10.3390/vetsci9090498. PMID: 36136714; PMCID: PMC9504151.

Veterinary Association of Namibia

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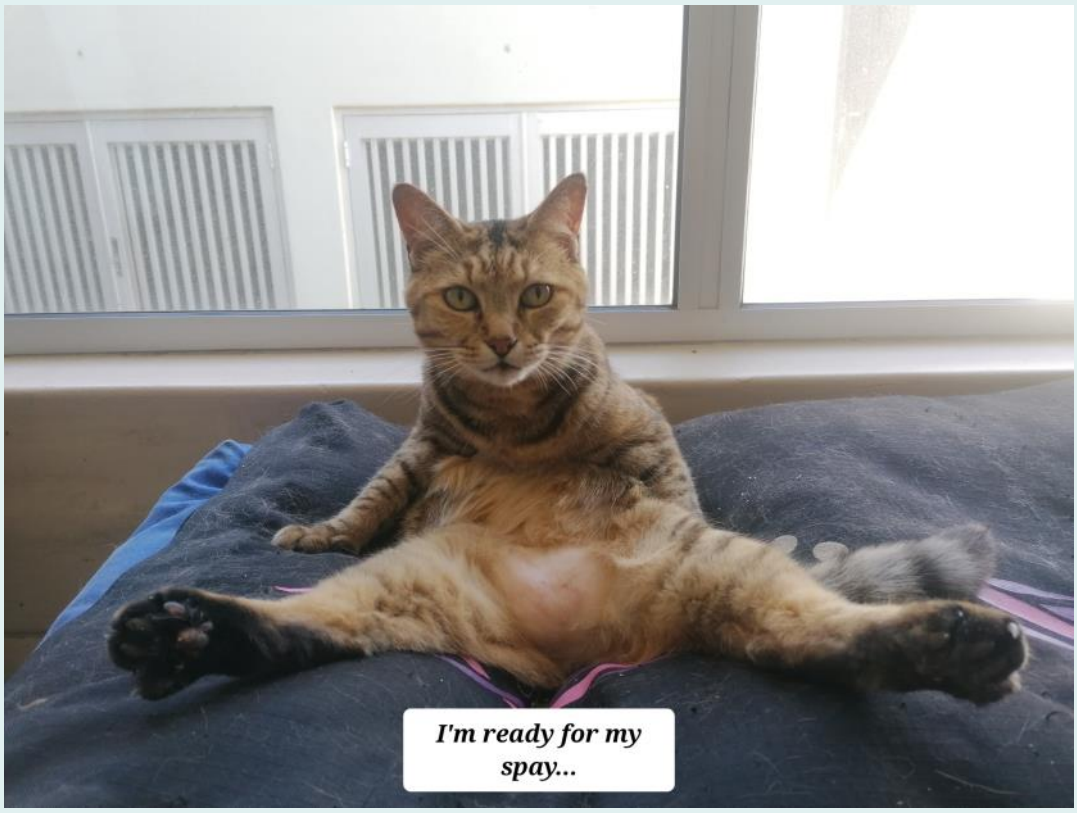
CONTACT US

We would love to hear from you!

Have an interesting case, story or pictures to share with us?

Please send them to:

secretary@van.org.na



"Mint", the practice cat from Southern Cross Veterinary Practice. Photo: Cveta Pudar