

***Toxoplasma* Polymyositis/Polyneuropathy**

Rapid onset of lower motor neuron signs in dogs is usually associated with polyradiculoneuritis (Coonhound paralysis), botulism, tick paralysis, or diabetes mellitus. Two adult dogs with rapidly progressive lower motor signs suggestive of polyradiculoneuritis proved, on histopathological examination, to have a

diffuse necrotizing polymyositis/polyneuropathy associated with toxoplasmosis.

Braund KG, Blagburn BL, Toivio-Kinnucan M, Amling KA, Pidgeon GL. *Toxoplasma* polymyositis/polyneuropathy - A new clinical variant in two mature dogs. J Am Anim Hosp Assoc 1988; 24: 93-97. AG

CROSS-CANADA DISEASE REPORT

RAPPORT DES MALADIES DIAGNOSTIQUÉES AU CANADA

Newfoundland

Health status of pigs

Since 1962 the Province of Newfoundland has had a closed herd for swine, created by the total eradication of existing swine and restocking from a minimal disease herd in Ontario. This action, combined with legislation controlling the importation of swine from the mainland, has resulted in extremely healthy pigs. Routine blood testing at our quarantine station, where all semen is introduced, and fecal parasite monitoring at both the quarantine and central stations, have yielded consistent results: No titers have been found to *Mycoplasma hyopneumoniae*, *Brucella suis*, or transmissible gastroenteritis (TGE). As well, no significant titers to porcine *Leptospira* have been seen. No

gastrointestinal nematodes have been found at either station.

No cases of porcine pleuropneumonia, TGE, enzootic pneumonia, swine dysentery or leptospirosis have been diagnosed in either government or commercial herds. Ascariidiasis and Glasser's disease are only of concern in the occasional commercial herd. Erysipelas, colibacillosis and porcine proliferative enteropathy are the only infectious diseases diagnosed with any consistency.

Hugh G. Whitney, Animal Health Division, Department of Rural, Agricultural and Northern Development, P.O. Box 7400, St. John's, Newfoundland A1E 3Y5

Ontario

Nocardial mastitis in cattle

Since September of 1987, the bacteriology staff of five of the six VLSB laboratories have diagnosed a total of greater than 100 cases of nocardial mastitis, an infection that has previously been recognized at a frequency of one case every two or three months. There have been no laboratory procedural changes to account for this. Neither has there been an increase in infections in other species, including man, during the same period in Ontario to suggest excessive environmental levels of this organism.

A range of clinical disease from acute to chronic mastitis is reported with the submissions. Typically, several animals in a herd are affected, with at least one having a history of chronic mastitis with multiple treatments. Affected animals are generally from well-managed herds.

In the literature, improper technique in administering intramammary infusions is often implicated as the cause of this infection. The large number of animals affected has raised speculation that a contaminated intramammary infusion might be involved, although this has not yet been investigated.

A limited telephone survey indicated that similar atypical increases have been seen in British Columbia, Alberta, and northwestern Quebec during this same period.

John A. Lynch, Veterinary Laboratory Services Branch, Box 3612, Guelph N1H 6R8