

# THE SIGNIFICANCE OF A PLEUROPNEUMONIA-LIKE ORGANISM IN KENNEL COUGH<sup>2</sup>

By A. S. GREIG<sup>1</sup>

Kennel cough refers to an incompletely defined respiratory condition of dogs recognized by many small animal practitioners in Canada, the United States and England. Reference to kennel cough in literature is scanty, but there are a few clinical reports of respiratory conditions in dogs described under several different names. All of the descriptions contain elements of similarity which suggest that the same disease is being considered in each case.

Whitney (1) in 1943 was the first to differentiate the disease on a clinical basis as "House dog" disease or pharyngo-laryngotracheitis. The early symptoms of infection were a type of retching cough and mild diarrhoea accompanied by only a slight elevation in body temperature. These symptoms usually disappeared in a few days, but occasionally persisted for several weeks, and included tonsillitis and swollen parotid glands. In some of the 309 cases which formed the basis of his paper, pneumonia developed around the seventh day after the start of symptoms. In a large percentage of his cases apparent recovery of the respiratory condition was followed in a month or so by acute signs of nervous disorder. Twitching of groups of muscles, vertigo, lethargy or convulsions usually led to death of the animal in a few days. Throughout the course of the disease the appetite remained good.

Microscopic examination of brain sections of those showing nervous signs revealed "non-suppurative encephalomyelitis with considerable demyelination".

Whitney differentiated this condition from distemper on clinical grounds, and on the lack of distemper inclusion bodies in histological sections. He felt that the causative agent was probably viral in nature because of the obvious infectiousness of the disease coupled with inconclusive bacteriological findings.

1. Animal Pathology Division, Canada Department of Agriculture, Animal Diseases Research Institute, Hull, Que.

2. Presented before the Meeting of the Ontario Veterinary Association, Jan. 15, 1954.

---

## CORRECTION

The caption under figure II in the article "Swine Rhinitis Studies" by Dr. G. R. Carter in the July issue on page 249 should have read as shown here.

"Pig 719A killed six days after inoculation with the PPLO. Note adherence of the lung to the thoracic wall and the presence of fibrinous bands along the borders of the spleen and liver."