Proceedings of the
8th International Symposium
on Canine and Feline Reproduction
ISCFR

June 22-25, 2016
Paris, France

In a joint meeting with the XIX EVSSAR Congress

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The theriogenologic impacts of leishmaniosis infantum in dogs: about 5 cases.
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Leishmania infantum is the etiological agent of canine leishmaniosis in Europe, where it is endemic in the Mediterranean region, with dogs being considered the major reservoir of the parasite for humans and other mammalian hosts. The main transmission mode is by the bite of infected phlebotomine sand fly insects, which are the only proven vectors of this zoonotic protozoan. Less common, non-vectorial transmission (transplacental, transmammary, transfusion, venereal) has been reported. In adult dogs, main clinical signs of canine leishmaniosis include weight loss, depression, splenomegaly, hepatomegaly, onychogryphosis, abnormalities of musculoskeletal system, eye lesions, generalized lymphadenomegaly and serosanguineous nasal discharge. Leishmanania major infection was associated with increased frequencies of fetal resorption and implantation failure in pregnant females. Through these case reports, our aim is to describe other theriogenologic symptoms that could be encountered in practice. Case 1: A two year old white Swiss shepherd dog, tested positive for leishmaniosis, gave birth to eleven puppies. All pups died within a week. One of them tested positive to leishmaniosis. Two weeks after birth, the bitch presented abnormal hemorrhagic vaginal discharge related to a subinvolution of placental sites (SIPS, weakness, weight loss and severe anemia. An ovariohysterectomy was performed to resolve the hemorrhage. Case 2: A three year old white Swiss shepherd dog, tested positive for leishmaniosis, gave birth to thirteen puppies. Seven pups died within a week and six others were tested positive to leishmaniosis and euthanized. Two weeks after birth, the bitch presented abnormal hemorrhagic vaginal discharge related to a SIPS. An ovariohysterectomy was performed to resolve the hemorrhage. A few days later, the bitch presented an infectious and necrotic mastitis. Case 3: A two year old Leonberger dog, presented at 50 days of pregnancy with severe hyperthermia and an acute mastitis. Six days later, abnormal vaginal discharge was observed followed by late abortion the next day. Complete blood work was performed and leishmaniosis was diagnosed. Case 4: A four year old Leonberger dog, which gave birth the year before to a good healthy litter, was presented for infertility. Embryonic resorption between 21 and 30 days of pregnancy happened twice. Complete infertility tests allowed diagnosis of leishmaniosis. Case 5: A five year old male Border Collie was presented for infertility. Three months earlier, the spermogram performed had not revealed any abnormality. Infertility tests concluded on azoospermia secondary to leishmaniosis. Two months later, this dog presented cutaneous signs and lingual ulcerative lesions secondary to Leishmaniosis. According to our clinical findings, leishmaniosis is related to infertility and an increase of mortalitay and it also may be associated with worsening of postpartum pathologies (SIPS, mastitis).