

Tail Pain: Evidence of IVDD?

Caudal intervertebral disk herniation in dogs is uncommon in veterinary literature; reported cases have been S3-Cd1 and Cd1-Cd2 extrusions in miniature dachshund dogs. A survey to members of the American College of Veterinary Radiology identified 4 cases from 1995 to 2010. All of the dogs were 7 years of age at the time of the event and breeds included a beagle, a basset hound, and 2 large mixed-breed dogs. All of the dogs exhibited signs of pain with tail manipulation; 2 dogs had pain on defecation, and 2 had abnormal tail carriage. The onset was reported as acute but at the time of presentation clinical signs had been present from 1 week to 2 years. Limp tail and loss of tail wag were 2 of the most common clinical findings reported just prior to the development of pain. Examination localized the pain to the caudal lumbar, sacral, or caudal vertebral column. Imaging (radiographs and/or MRI) performed on all dogs identified disk herniation at Cd1-Cd2. Causes of tail pain include trauma, neoplasia, inflammation, vascular disease, and caudal intervertebral disk herniation. In hunting dogs (eg, Labrador retriever), coccygeal muscle injury (limber tail syndrome) is another differential diagnosis to consider. Imaging options include radiographs, MRI, and CT.

Commentary

This article summarizes findings in 4 dogs with coccygeal intervertebral disk disease (IVDD). The findings are important because dogs frequently present on an emergency basis with a chief complaint of tail injury. This is often attributed to trauma and treated with supportive measures (eg, rest, NSAIDs, pain medications). While this remains a reasonable treatment for dogs presenting with abnormal tail carriage, this article points out that IVDD should be considered as a differential and supports recommending caudal spinal radiographs to assess the caudal vertebrae for evidence of IVDD.—*Jennifer Ginn, DVM, MS, DACVIM*



Source

Imaging findings in dogs with caudal intervertebral disc herniation. Lawson CM, Reichle JK, McKlveen T, Smith MO. *VET RADIOLOG ULTRASOUN* 52:487-491, 2011.

Research Note

Babesiosis in Dogs & Cats

This article provides a thorough review of the literature on babesiosis in companion animals, describing distribution, pathogenesis, prognosis, and treatment for several species found in the United States. Large forms of *Babesia* organisms were previously all described as *B canis* and all small forms were characterized as *B gibsoni*. Development of molecular methods, however, has demonstrated that other large- and small-form species can cause distinct diseases. Small-form species are often resistant to treatment with imidocarb dipropionate and may necessitate a dose of diminazene aceturate, which can result in severe side effects and requires close monitoring. Even with treatment, relapses are frequent and the prognosis is poor. Diagnosis should be made using molecular methods, as distinguishing between

species by morphology alone is not possible, and treatment regimens and prognosis will vary depending on the species of infection.

Source

Babesiosis in dogs and cats—Expanding parasitological and clinical spectra. Solano-Gallego L, Baneth G. *VET PARASITOL* 181:48-60, 2011.

WANT MORE?

See **Practical Guide to Tick-Borne Disease** by Dr. Stephen C. Barr in the May 2006 issue at cliniciansbrief.com/journal.

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