The Importance of Postmortem Examinations

A common question is, “Why would someone conduct a postmortem examination on a horse?” A closer look at the “why” of a postmortem examination is critical to understanding the benefit of conducting such a review. The ultimate goal of a postmortem examination is to identify the cause of death to the best of the examiner’s knowledge and skills, so that the horse, its owner, the trainer, the veterinarian, and others involved in equine care can mitigate the risk of their occurrence in horses.

A postmortem examination is a valuable record of the condition of the horse at the time of death. It provides vital information about the horse’s health and well-being. This information can be used to improve the health and welfare of horses in the future. It can also help veterinarians to identify potential causes of disease and to develop strategies to prevent future occurrences.

Postmortem examinations are typically performed by veterinarians who have received specialized training in this area. The examination process involves a thorough inspection of the horse’s body, including a detailed examination of the organs and tissues. Additional tests, such as microscopic analyses, may also be performed to further investigate the cause of death.

Postmortem examination findings can have a significant impact on the care and management of horses. They can help to identify potential causes of disease and to develop strategies to prevent future occurrences. They can also help to improve the quality of care provided to horses and to ensure that horses receive the best possible care.

Postmortem examinations are not only important for individual horses, but also for the larger equine community. They can help to identify trends in horse health and to develop strategies to prevent future occurrences. They can also help to improve the quality of care provided to horses and to ensure that horses receive the best possible care.
The systemic inflammatory response of lymph nodes and the lymphatic system is an important part of the immune system and consists of several components. Lymph nodes are found throughout the body, from the head to the feet, and are responsible for filtering out invading pathogens. When the body is infected with a foreign substance, such as a virus or bacteria, the lymphatic system responds by producing antibodies to neutralize the invader. These antibodies are transported to the lymph nodes, where they are stored and can be quickly mobilized if the same pathogen is encountered again.

The lymphatic system is also important for the transport of lymph, which is a fluid that carries waste products and immune cells throughout the body. Lymph nodes help to filter out foreign particles, such as viruses and bacteria, from the lymph and can also help to prevent the spread of cancer by destroying cancer cells that may have metastasized to the lymph nodes.

In cases of cancer, such as sarcomas and melanomas, early treatment is crucial to improve survival rates. Early treatment can include surgery, chemotherapy, radiation therapy, or a combination of these treatments. However, the treatment of sarcomas and melanomas can be challenging, and there is still a need for further research to develop more effective treatment options.

References:

Cancer Outcomes, Treatment, and Survival

The survival rates for sarcomas and melanomas are higher when treatment is initiated early. The overall survival rate for sarcoma patients is about 45%, while the survival rate for melanoma patients is about 90%. However, the survival rates vary depending on the type and stage of the cancer, as well as the treatment options available. Early detection and treatment can significantly improve survival rates and quality of life for patients with sarcomas and melanomas.

References:

Living with cancer

Living with cancer can be challenging, and it is important for patients to have a support system in place to help them manage the physical and emotional effects of cancer. Patients can benefit from support from family, friends, and healthcare providers, as well as from cancer support groups and online communities.

References:

NATURAL

Hurricane Harvey: Impact and Response Related to Texas Equids

Hurricane Harvey was a storm that struck the state of Texas in late August 2017. It was a Category 3 hurricane with winds reaching up to 125 miles per hour. The storm caused widespread damage, with 35 deaths reported and over $30 billion in property damage.

Livestock owners were affected by the hurricane, with reports of injured and missing animals. The Texas A&M Veterinary Emergency Response Team was deployed to help with the response efforts.

As of November 2017, 184 counties were home to at least one equine, with 1.6 million horses reported in Texas. These counties faced increased risk of injury, disease, and death due to the extreme conditions.

The National Disaster Response Act of 2000 provides federal assistance for disaster relief efforts. The Texas A&M Veterinary Emergency Response Team was one of the first responders to arrive on the scene.

After the hurricane, the Texas A&M Veterinary Emergency Response Team continued to work with livestock owners and emergency responders to ensure the safety and well-being ofTexas equids.
Equine Research Center, addressed to the editors,

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Cutaneous Lymphangitis

Cutaneous lymphangitis—inflammation of the lymphatic vessels—is a common cutaneous disease in horses. Etiology is often multifactorial with no single underlying cause. The exact etiology remains unknown but is believed to be a response to infection, immune reaction, or both. Pathogens that have been implicated include various bacteria, fungi, and viruses. Clinical signs include skin nodules that can abscess or develop draining sinus tracts, and/or lameness. Cutaneous lymphangitis is painful, persistent, and often recurrent. The treatment of infectious cutaneous lymphangitis is typically surgical drainage of abscesses or fistulas. Topical treatments, such as subcutaneous fluid drainage, may also be used. The condition is often resistant to treatment and can recur if not properly managed.

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Necropsy is the abnormal growth of tissue in any area of the body, and it is commonly known as a tumor. Neoplasia may be benign (tends to be less destructive) or malignant (tends to be more destructive). The most commonly diagnosed types of tumors in horses are melanomas and squamous cell carcinomas. Melanomas are most commonly found in grey breed horses, and may be within the skin or affecting the structures of the eye itself. Although a majority of melanomas are likely to be malignant, a small number of specialty centers can successfully surgically remove them. In horses (unlike dogs), melanomas are usually not a malignant lesion.

Squamous cell carcinomas commonly are diagnosed during routine screening. They can be found on any part of the body, and are often multiple. Squamous cell carcinomas are a common cause of masses in horses, and may be within the skin or affecting the structures of the eye itself. Ocular melanoma may be successfully attempted, but this is a highly specialized surgery and is rarely attempted.

One case of equine neorickettsiosis was recorded in South Africa. The disease was sporadically diagnosed in horses, but sometimes occurs simultaneously in multiple horses on the same farm. Infection of the lymphocytic type was recorded in South Africa, and the case is currently under investigation.

The USA reported 103 cases of West Nile encephalitis were reported in 12 states. Equine herpesvirus 1 (EHV-1) related diseases were reported by France, Switzerland, the UK, and the USA recorded outbreaks of strangles. T. equi was confirmed in the USA, and one outbreak in the UK.

One outbreak was also confirmed in the UK. The disease was confirmed to be less destructive and may spread to other tissues. The most commonly diagnosed types of tumors are melanomas and squamous cell carcinomas. Melanomas are most commonly found in grey breed horses, and may be within the skin or affecting the structures of the eye itself. Although a majority of melanomas are likely to be malignant, a small number of specialty centers can successfully surgically remove them. In horses (unlike dogs), melanomas are usually not a malignant lesion.
Cutaneous Lymphangitis

Lymph angitis is an important topic in the field of veterinary medicine, particularly in equine practice. The lymphatic system is a network of lymph nodes, lymph vessels, and lymphoid tissue that is responsible for filtering waste products and debris from the body. When this system becomes compromised, the result is a build-up of waste and debris, leading to inflammation and pain.

In the case of cutaneous lymphangitis, the infection typically begins on the face and ears, and may spread to other areas of the body. The disease can be caused by a variety of factors, including bacteria, viruses, and fungi. In some cases, it may be a result of a primary infection in the skin, such as a cut or scratch.

As the disease progresses, the area can become swollen, red, and tender, with a high risk of infection. If left untreated, the infection can spread to other areas of the body, leading to more severe complications. Treatment typically involves the use of antibiotics and anti-inflammatory medications, but in some cases, surgery may be necessary.

In conclusion, cutaneous lymphangitis is a serious condition that requires prompt diagnosis and treatment. It is important for veterinarians to be aware of the potential causes and symptoms, and to take appropriate actions to prevent the spread of this disease.

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References:
The lymphatic system is an important component of the immune system, and it plays a crucial role in the body’s defense against disease. Lymph nodes, which are small, oval-shaped structures, are distributed throughout the body and are particularly abundant in the head, neck, and posterior thorax. Lymph nodes filter lymph, which is a clear liquid that contains lymphocytes, white blood cells that help the body fight infections. Lymph nodes help to identify and destroy harmful bacteria and viruses before they can cause illness. The lymphatic system is also involved in the development of certain types of cancer, such as lymphoma and melanoma. Lymphoma is a type of cancer that begins in the lymphatic system, and it can affect any part of the body that has lymph nodes. Melanoma is a type of cancer that begins in the skin, and it can spread to the lymphatic system and other parts of the body. Early detection and treatment of these cancers are crucial for improving survival rates. The lymphatic system is also important for maintaining fluid balance in the body, as lymph helps to return fluid from the tissues to the bloodstream. Lymphedema, a condition caused by the accumulation of lymph in the body, can occur after surgery, cancer treatment, or injury. However, with prompt intervention and proper care, lymphedema can be managed and improved, leading to a better quality of life for those affected. The lymphatic system is a complex and important part of the body’s defense against disease and plays a critical role in maintaining fluid balance, as well as in the development and treatment of certain types of cancer.
Like all athletes, Thoroughbred racehorses experience catastrophic musculoskeletal injury is less clear. In a case of sudden death, but understanding the underlying conditions and the potential for serious injury to the horse, the acute, catastrophic injury can be documented as well as the underlying causes that led to the acute injury. The overall health and condition of the horse, the training and racing records, and the immediate circumstances of the postmortem examination are reviewed in the hope of identifying risk factors for future horse-related and human injuries.

Mature surgeons are conducted with the intent of identifying pre-existing, follow-up, catastrophic fractures. The goal of these events is to prevent future injuries, but also to help people prevent injuries to themselves.

The overall health and condition of the horse, the training and racing records, and the immediate circumstances of the postmortem examination are reviewed in the hope of identifying risk factors for future horse-related and human injuries. Additional information regarding the cause of the injury can be obtained through careful and determined study.

The ultimate goal of any postmortem program is to identify the risk of injury to the horse, and in turn, the exercise riders and jockeys that are involved. Catastrophic fractures are the leading cause of serious injury to riders, and in some cases, death. While postmortem examinations are necessary for the horse in question, the role of the entire population of horses and the connections of a particular horse are critical. We work to create safer systems, and work together with the racing community at a larger scale to address the issue. Breakdowns are inevitable events. We can mitigate the risk of injury to horses through careful and determined study.

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A catastrophic musculoskeletal injury is less clear.

veterinarians and technicians volunteering from

suffering a fatal musculoskeletal injury have pre-existing underlying pathology.

injuries also are a familiar malady in quarterbacks.

stallions or mares in need. There were many, many more significant but

The real story of Hurricane Harvey is how own

Let’s make coordinated, concerted efforts in our

horses, and other family/team members, pets,

Department of Veterinary Science

The 80% of horses that suffer a fatal musculoskeletal

The association between pre-existing lesions

The postmortem examination is a rich source of information. The outcome of the postmortem examination can be of inestimable value to the owner of the horse, its training and racing records, and implementations for future intervention. Additionally, it is hoped that the data from thorough investigations and the knowledge gained by during their experience with other...