

Clinical case studies of the Whitetail Deer

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Abstract

Through clinical experience we have learned that whitetails have an amazing ability to heal from certain injuries and illnesses and are not very good at recovering from others. Part of the problem arises from lack of research on deer, although there is more and more research in the works. This presentation is a compilation of case studies explaining treatment techniques that worked well clinically and others that did not. As the deer industry grows, we are going to be asked to treat more cervids in private practice. This discussion should give multiple techniques for treating some of the most common problems you will encounter in private practice.

Key words: deer, diseases, therapy

Résumé

Suite à l'expérience clinique nous avons appris que les cerfs de Virginie ont une étonnante capacité à guérir de certaines blessures et maladies et ne sont pas très bonne à recouvrer auprès d'autres personnes. Une partie du problème découle du manque de recherche sur Deer, bien qu'il y a de plus en plus de recherches dans les oeuvres. Cette présentation est une compilation d'études de cas expliquant les techniques de traitement qui ont bien fonctionné cliniquement et d'autres qui n'ont pas. Comme le cerf industrie croît, nous serons appelés à traiter plus cervidés en pratique privée. Cette discussion devrait donner de multiples techniques pour traiter certains des problèmes les plus courants que vous rencontrerez en pratique privée.

Common Diseases/Conditions

Jaw Swelling

- Abscesses: *Fusobacterium necrophorum* — *Truprella pyogenes*
- Food impactions: *Elaeophora schneideri*?? I say not, or teeth problems or jaw abscess sequella
- Lumpy jaw: *Actinomyces bovis*

EHD (Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease)

- Very high morbidity & mortality
- Lots of dead deer
- Severe internal hemorrhage

Lameness

- Joint abscesses
- Primary hoof lesions
 - Digit amputation
 - Limb amputation
 - Foot blocks
 - Hooves can grow back

Fractures

- Fawns vs adults
- How much muscle is around the fracture?
 - Splints
 - Casts
 - External fixation
 - Benign neglect
 - Limp amputation

Soft Tissue Injuries

- Controlling infection is key

Antler Injuries

- Bleeding
- Infection
- Flies
 - Remove broken pieces
 - Antler amputation
 - Remove entire rack
 - Partial removal with stabilization
 - Always, always, always control flies

Pneumonia

- A number one cause of a sick deer in Ohio
 - *Arcanobacterium pyogenes* is a major player
 - *Fusobacterium necrophorum*, *Pasteurella multocida*, *Bibersteinia trehalosi*, *Mannheimia haemolytica*, *Mycoplasma bovis*.
- Control
 - Vaccinate, vaccinate, vaccinate!
 - Correct position when deer are under anesthesia

Cephenemyia—non pathogenic nasal bots

Brain Abscesses—Always a differential

Torsion of the root of the mesentery

- Very poor prognosis.