

FIRST ISOLATION OF *STAPHYLOCOCCUS PSEUDINTERMEDIUS* IN A CASE OF PYOMETRA IN A RED FOX (*Vulpes vulpes*)

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Introduction

Data on uterine pathology in wild canids are scarce and mainly concern captive animals in breeding programs of zoos. Here we report on a case of pyometra in a red fox, a highly opportunistic and successful wild carnivore.

Materials & Methods

A female fox was found dead in the countryside. Necropsy was performed and samples of different organs including uterine horns and enlarged right ovary were taken for histological examination. The purulent material was put on an aerobe culture medium followed by MALDI-TOF MS.

RESULTS

The animal was in a good nutritional condition. It presented with an enlarged, hyperaemic uterus, with distention of the upper right horn and two dilations of the external wall of the left horn. The lumen was filled with purulent material, the cervix was closed. The right ovary was enlarged. Histologically, the uterus showed a diffuse mixed cellular and necrotic endometritis with intralesional bacterial aggregates, extending to the myometrium. The uterine lumen was mainly filled with neutrophils interlaced with necrotic material and coccoid bacteria. The bacterial examination revealed a pure culture of *S. pseudintermedius*.

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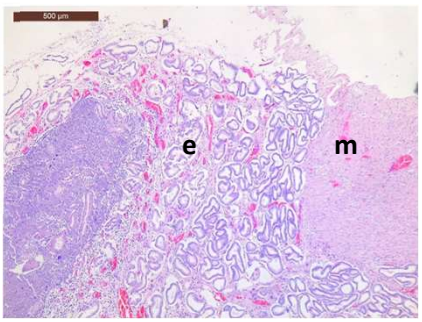
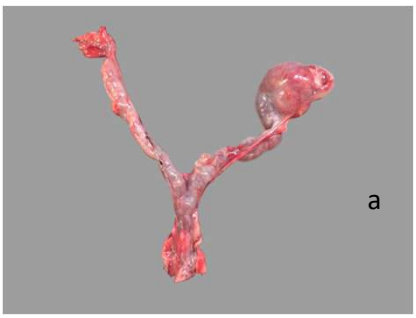
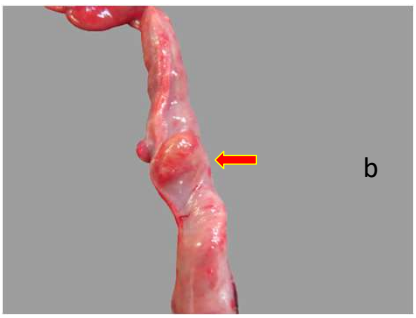


***Fig 2** : Histopathologic image (HE) of the uteruswall at the level of the bulges: inflammation of the Endo (**e**) - and myometrium (**m**) with disruption of the myometrium*





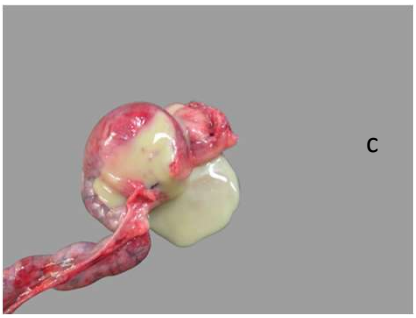


***Fig 1 a,b, c** : Macroscopical image of the uterus (**a**) with bulging of the left horn (**b**) and dilatation of the right horntop with enlarged ovary (**c**)*

Conclusion

In bitches, pyometra is the most frequent reproductive disease, mainly caused by *E. coli*. The natural hosts of *S. pseudintermedius* are dogs and foxes, infections are observed in dogs, cats and humans. Given the challenge of canid conservation it is important that further research focuses on the effect of *S. pseudintermedius* on reproductive health and fertility of wild canids, as well as its zoonotic potential.