

any ulceration or mucoid exudates. A nick incision was given on the tip towards the bent portion of the fishing hook and was palpated through the neck muscles (Image 4<sup>w</sup>). Then the fishing hook was taken out by holding its tip with a needle holder. The wound was irrigated with 5% povidone-iodine lotion and left unsutured. The temperature and respiration rates were recorded to be 25°C and 3/min. 70ml of 5% DNS was administered intravenously in the radial vein (Image 5<sup>w</sup>). A bite block was kept inside the mouth to keep it open for better breathing (Image 3<sup>w</sup>). A comparative radiograph showed removal of foreign body (Image 7<sup>w</sup>). Post-operatively the turtle was kept inside a water trough containing a low level of water mixed with 5% povidone-iodine lotion. This practice was continued until the turtle was able to raise its head 45° with respect to its body, move its fin in a coordinated manner and regulate its weight in a water column. The turtle was given fish, earthworm and insects as food. The turtle recovered uneventfully and it was released to its natural habitat. Careful examination of the radiograph revealed presence of eight eggs indicating that the turtle was a gravid female (Image 8<sup>w</sup>).

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VET BRIEF

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### Paraplegia in a Tiger *Panthera tigris*

I. Nath<sup>1</sup>, S.K. Panda<sup>2</sup>, L.M. Mohapatra<sup>3</sup>, Monalisa Sahoo<sup>4</sup>, P.K. Roy<sup>5</sup> and A.K. Mishra<sup>6</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Associate Professor, Department of Surgery; <sup>2</sup> Assistant Professor, <sup>4</sup>P.G. Scholar, Department of Pathology; <sup>3</sup> Associate Professor, LPM, Orissa Veterinary College, Bhubaneswar, Orissa 751003, India  
<sup>5</sup> Senior Veterinary Officer; <sup>6</sup> Assistant Director, Nandan Kanan Zoo, Bhubaneswar, Orissa, India  
Email: <sup>1</sup>indravet@yahoo.co.in

plus web supplement of 1 page

A male tiger Rohit aged 13yr of Nandankanan Zoo was unable to bear weight on his hind limb. He was treated with powdered oral calcium tablets (Shell-cal, 500mg, 4no), nervine tonics (Neurobion tablets, vitamin B complex with B12, 2 no), oral analgesic (Tramadol hydrochloride, 100mg, 5 no) offered in beef for five days. There was no improvement and the tiger developed wounds due to limb dragging. It was decided to examine the hind quarters both physically and radiologically. On 03.01.2006 the tiger was darted with a mixture of 1.2mg atropine sulphate, 200mg xylazine hydrochloride and 400mg ketamine hydrochloride using a pressure gun (Image 1<sup>w</sup>).

After 12min the animal was lifted on a tarpaulin strap and brought out of his pen. Temperature, respiration and heart rate were recorded to be 99.6°F, 17/min and 98/min, respectively (Image 2<sup>w</sup>). Radiograph of both the limbs in lateral and dorsal-plantar views were taken starting from stifle joints to digits (Images 3<sup>w</sup> & 4<sup>w</sup>). A ventro-dorsal view of both the hip joints was also taken (Image 5<sup>w</sup>). Blood samples were collected for haematological and blood protozoan examination. Ringers Lactate 500ml and DNS 5% 500ml was administered intravenously. Neurobion injection (vitamin B complex with B12) 3ml x 4 ampoules and Tramadol hydrochloride injection 100mg, 1ml x 2 ampoules were injected

<sup>w</sup> See Images 1-7<sup>w</sup> in the web supplement at [www.zoosprint.org](http://www.zoosprint.org)

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intramuscularly. The tiger was revived from anesthesia by i/v administration of 2ml (20mg) of yohimbine hydrochloride (Antagozil) (Image 6<sup>w</sup>). Radiographs did not reveal any fracture or dislocation of the bones. Blood examination for protozoan parasites was negative. The haemoglobin, total leukocyte count, neutrophilic count and eosinophilic count were recorded to be 12g/dl, 9300/mm<sup>3</sup> of blood, 80% and 10% respectively. Ceftriaxone sodium 1g (Monocef) and Neurobion 10ml were administered intramuscularly once daily for five days with a dart gun. Thereafter, cartigen, glucosamine sulphate (Pharmed Ltd., Mumbai-1) 500mg x4, Neurobion (vitamin B complex with B12) two tablets and multivitamin tablets with trace mineral *i.e.* vitA, vitD, vitB1,2,6,12, vitE, ferrous sulfate, copper sulphate, manganese sulfate and zinc sulfate, Supradyn (Nicholas Lab., two no.) in beef was administered for 15 days. The tiger started bearing weight and walking on his hind limbs (Image 7<sup>w</sup>). After ruling out infection, inflammation, traumatic, toxic and parasitic causes, it was concluded that the tiger was suffering from nutritional problems, hence multivitamin with trace mineral tablets were administered. Eldridge (1997) stated that it is difficult to determine what specific mineral is in imbalance when examining an animal's symptoms, because the clinical signs for one mineral imbalance can be exactly the same as for several other minerals. Again deficiencies of minerals and excess intake of minerals may present the same symptoms. In late 1980 seven cheetah cubs of Zoological Institution in Southwestern United States suffered from various levels of ataxia and hind limb paralysis which were successfully treated by both injectable and oral copper supplement. However, copper deficiency, a nutritional problem is usually considered in carnivorous animals on a diet primarily of poultry, which may be particularly vulnerable to copper related deficiency. In this case, however, the tiger was maintained on beef.

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VET BRIEF

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### *Amblyomma* tick infestation in Indian Rat Snake *Ptyas mucosa* from Chandrapur district of Maharashtra state

L.J. Harkare<sup>1</sup>, B.S. Baviskar<sup>2</sup>, P.J. Gawande<sup>3</sup>, P.S. Bankar<sup>4</sup>, S.V. Deshmukh<sup>5</sup>, D.K. Maske<sup>6</sup> and A.K. Jayraw<sup>7</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Patrakar Saha Niwas, B-3/1, Civil Lines, Amravati Road, Nagpur, Maharashtra 440001, India; <sup>2,3,4,5,6,7</sup> Department of Parasitology, Nagpur Veterinary College, M. A. F. S. U., Seminary Hills, Nagpur, Maharashtra 440006, India  
Email: <sup>2</sup>drbaharaviskar@rediffmail.com; <sup>3</sup>drpriyagawande@gmail.com;  
<sup>4</sup>drps\_bankar@rediffmail.com; <sup>5</sup>shubha23@rediffmail.com;  
<sup>6</sup>drbaharaviskar@gmail.com (corresponding auhtor); <sup>7</sup>jayrawant1@rediffmail.com

Snakes are commonly affected by bewildering variety of parasites resulting in severe health hazards, amongst which ticks play a pivotal role in morbidity and mortality. Tick infestation not only results in anaemia, owing to their blood sucking habit, but also transmits certain blood borne diseases. Information is lacking on tick infestation in snakes from Maharashtra. Hence, the present communication documents the first report on occurrence of *Amblyomma* ticks in a Rat Snake (*Ptyas mucosa*) from Chandrapur district of Maharashtra state.

An 8ft-long female Rat Snake rescued from Chandrapur (Maharashtra) was observed with heavy tick infestation all over the body and beneath the scales. Ticks were removed manually by applying alcohol on exposed part of the body and were collected in a specimen bottle,

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