

SELECTED CASES OF ANIMAL CARDIAC PATHOLOGY IN CROATIA

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Interest in heart diseases of animals largely developed in the middle of the last century at which time the terms "primary myocardial disease," "cardiomyopathy," and "myocardopathy" were proposed to identify a series of disorders that affected primarily the myocardium. Since that time, a large number of animal cardiac diseases have been described that occur either spontaneously or are experimentally induced. Today, cardiac diseases of animals provide many unique opportunities to explore diverse aspects of cardiovascular medicine. Some of these diseases correspond closely to conditions known to affect humans; others constitute model systems for specific aspects of certain human disorders; and still others represent situations of intrinsic genetic, morphologic, toxicologic, or pharmacologic interest.

Bearing in mind strong human-animal bond, this year will be presented and discussed some selected interesting cases of cardiac pathology in different animal species, with the wish to broaden our knowledge about animal diseases. Cases are related to sudden cardiac death, primary and secondary cardiomyopathies and heart pathology related to nutritional and endocrine disorders.

Case 1: Hypertrophic cardiomyopathy in Maine coon cat. This condition is inherited as an autosomal dominant trait. Some cats die unexpectedly as the only clinical expression of the disease, but some cats show signs of heart failure.

Case 2: Sudden cardiac death in young German Shepherd Dog. This syndrome is suspected to be hereditary in nature; affected animals die unexpectedly during sleep or during rest following exercise. Ventricular tachycardia is the most common arrhythmia.

Case 3: Cor pulmonale in Monk Seal. The case presents common lesion in an uncommon species that resulted in biventricular heart failure and severe venous congestion.

Case 4: Coronary atherosclerosis in mongrel dog. This is a very rare condition in animals, especially in dogs that rarely leads to clinical disease such as infarction.

Case 5: Pigs. Thanks to the people, some animals have very short life span, but still they may develop significant lesions on the heart, such as mulberry heart disease or severe endocarditis.