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Symposium for Dog Owners and Breeders

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"Infertility can have many causes. We look at the animal, check its history, and review the breeding management. We approach reproductive problems in the same manner as it would be approached in human or large animal medicine."

Additional information about normal hormonal values and their function is important because we need to find the cause of a reproductive problem. For example, it has been shown that urinary infections are common after misdating shots given to bitches which were accidentally bred.

Most uterine infections though are caused by bacteria. "When a bitch is in season it is very possible for bacteria, which are normally present in the genital tract, to make their way into the uterus. It's just a matter of chance," Dr. Meyers explained. Duration of the disease is important because the bacterial infections increase in efficiency and provide additional resistance against invading bacteria. In diestrous the uterine resistance decreases and the bacteria which enter the uterus can multiply unchallenged and cause infection, pyometra. It has been found that uterine cell changes occurring during diestrous, such as an increase in uterine glands, create an ideal environment for bacterial growth. It is postulated that this bacterial infection is more susceptible as uterine gland changes can increase with each heat cycle. Pyometra often does not manifest itself for several weeks. Once symptoms are evident swift action has to be taken. In the past bitches with pyome- tra were spayed. Now such drastic treatment is no longer the only alternative.

Dr. Meyers and her colleagues have devised a regimen which eliminates infection and retains the breeding capacity of the animal. The treatment differs from others in that a uterine biopsy and culture are taken to confirm the diagnosis. "Doing a vaginal culture only will not provide the answer because there are so many bacteria there normally," she said. During the biopsy the uterus is examined, and the uterine cells are checked and palpated. These examinations enable the clinicians to make a definite diagnosis of infection and other problems and help to ascertain the extent of damage to the uterus. The data aid in finding out whether reproductive capacity can be restored in a severely damaged uterus.

Bitches are treated with small doses of Progynon and B 2 alpha for three days. Dr. Meyers explained that the dosage for a bitch has to be carefully calculated because dogs are very sensitive to the drug. Cats are more tolerant and can be given higher doses. Progynon B 2 alpha causes the uterus to contract and expel the purulent material. The veterinarians also measure plasma progesterone levels and white blood cell counts before, during, and after treatment. Since progesterone levels are normally high during the luteal phase when the disease appears, it is thought that a reduction in these levels may be helpful in preventing a relapse. It has been found that Progynon B 2 alpha can reduce progesterone production by the ovaries during late diestrous.

So far ten bitches have been treated at the University of Pennsylvania Veterinary Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania (VHUP). The recipient of this internship for 1982-83 is Dr. Robert Washabaugh (V '82). The survey will be known as the Mrs. Cheever Porter Internship for Veterinary Medical Genetics was made to support the research in the Section of Medical Genetics of which Dr. Donald F. Patterson is chief.

Symposium for Dog Owners and Breeders

The 13th annual symposium, Your Veterinarian and Your Dog, will be held on January 29, 1983, at the School of Veterinary Medicine, 3800 Spruce Street, Philadelphia.

The program and speakers are as follows:


"Epilepsy - How Can We Treat It?" George C. Foreman, V.M.D., Ph.D., assistant professor of Neurology.

"Some Inherited Enzyme Deficiency Diseases in the Dog and Cat," Mark E. Haskins, V.M.D., M.S., Ph.D., assistant professor of Pathology.

"New Developments in the Understanding of Inherited Metabolic Disease," Peter F. Zeitz, V.M.D., Ph.D., associate professor of Medical Genetics.

"Genetic and Non-genetic Disorders of Sexual Development in the Dog," Donald F. Patterson, D.V.M., Ph.D., Charlotte Newton Shippard Professor of Medicine, chief, Section of Medical Genetics.

The cost of the all-day program is $25 and includes parking and luncheon. Reservations for the symposium can be made by contacting the Mrs. Cheever Porter Internship for Veterinary Medical Genetics.

The Cheever Porter Foundation

The Cheever Porter Foundation has made two grants of $10,000 each to the School of Veterinary Medicine. One is for the Mrs. Cheever Porter Internship in the Veterinary Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania (VHUP). The recipient of this internship for 1982-83 is Dr. Robert Washabaugh (V '82). The second is for the Mrs. Cheever Porter Fund for Veterinary Medical Genetics was made to support the research in the Section of Medical Genetics of which Dr. Donald F. Patterson is chief.