

New Mexico Department of Agriculture

Veterinary Diagnostic Services

1101 Camino de Salud, NE
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87102
(505) 383-9299 phone
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Case #: 12-04266
Owner: Ryan
Animal ID: Snake
Species: Ball python
Breed: Ball python
Sex: Female
Age: 1 Years

*This copy
for owner.*

DR. RICK MILLER
ARK ANIMAL HOSPITAL
1700 INDIAN WELLS ROAD
ALAMOGORDO, NM 88310

Received: 03/02/12
Reported: 03/15/12
Final Report

CASE HISTORY

Owner requests specific check for (inclusion body disease). Snake found dead at 3:00 AM 3-1-12.

NECROPSY

The carcass presented for necropsy was a 1 year old, female, Ball Python identified as "Snake". The python was in good body condition with an adequate coelomic fat pad. There was minimal to mild postmortem decomposition.

The liver was slightly pale and yellow.

There were no significant lesions in the oral cavity, trachea, esophagus, lung, heart, gallbladder, stomach, intestine, pancreas, spleen, kidneys, or brain.

HISTOPATHOLOGY

There are segments of the small intestine where the mucosal epithelium is necrotic and lined by and infiltrated by numerous coccobacilli. The deep lamina propria and superficial submucosa contains small numbers of macrophages.

Diffusely in the liver, the hepatocytes contain a few small clear distinct cytoplasmic vacuoles consistent with lipid. There are rare random foci of hepatocellular necrosis.

There are no significant microscopic lesions in the lungs, trachea, esophagus, heart, kidneys, stomach, pancreas, or brain.

FINAL COMMENTS

The ball python had necrotizing enteritis with intralesional bacteria, mild hepatic lipidosis and mild random hepatic necrosis. The necrotizing enteritis was most likely caused by the intralesional bacteria. The foci of necrosis in the liver were most likely the result of bacterial emboli from the intestine ascending to the liver via the portal circulation. In my experience, snakes often have lipid accumulation in the liver, which may or may not be clinically significant. There was no evidence of boid inclusion body disease in the organs examined.

CASE DIAGNOSIS

ENTERITIS - NECROTIZING
HEPATIC LIPIDOSIS
HEPATIC NECROSIS

*RPM
recd
3/17/12*

John Ragsdale, DVM, PhD
Diplomate, ACVP
Veterinary Pathologist

End of Report