Case #21 P16-1239

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Signalment and History

• 2 adult sugar gliders (*Petaurus breviceps*)
  • 1 female (~7 months-old) P16-1239
    • Sold in breeding pair
    • Male became sick and died (~7 weeks later)
    • Female began to show clinical signs and died
    • Submitted to VMCVM for necropsy
  • 1 male (~2 years-old) P16-1328
    • Found dead in cage shortly after death of 2 cage mates
Gross Findings

• Liver:
  • Moderate hepatomegaly
  • Multifocal, white to tan, up to 1 mm diameter, well-demarcated foci
• Diagnosis: Severe, multifocal, necrotizing and suppurative hepatitis
Morphologic Diagnosis

• Hepatitis, necrotizing and suppurative, severe, chronic, multifocal to coalescing, with numerous intralesional gram-positive bacilli
Ancillary Findings

- Aerobic Bacterial Culture
  - *Listeria monocytogenes*

Gallbladder H&E
Additional Findings

- Severe, multifocal, necrotizing and suppurative splenitis

Spleen H&E
Listeria monocytogenes

- Gram-positive rod-shaped bacteria
- Facultative anaerobe
- Motile
- Virulence Factor: listeriolysin O
- Exposure/Infection: Oral
Comment

- Ruminants: encephalitis and abortion
- Monogastric animals: septicemic form
  - Depression, inappetence, fever, death
- Septicemic listeriosis in a sugar glider (2011)
References


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