

Anal Sacculitis



For some poor dogs, anal sac disease is a miserable condition that is a real challenge to treat. We can make puns about 'getting to the bottom of anal sacculitis,' but the truth is that the exact aetiology is unclear. Several factors appear to be contributory, some of which are interlinked, including breed, anatomical conformation, faecal consistency, activity, weight, increased secretion associated with generalised seborrhoea, inflammatory intestinal disease, perianal fistulas and scarring. Also, as the anal sac ducts are narrow and the opening small, any condition causing anal swelling may result in duct occlusion.

It is suggested that mild cases of anal sacculitis are best treated by infusion with topical antibacterials, with or without corticosteroid, after irrigation with either 0.05% chlorhexidine or 1% povidone-iodine solution.

Systemic antibacterials can be reserved for cases where there is cellulitis around the anal sac and/or the dog is febrile. Swabs from anal glands are regularly received here at the lab, often from cases which

have proved resistant to anti-bacterial therapy. We always culture these aerobically and anaerobically and the organisms isolated cover a broad spectrum of both types.

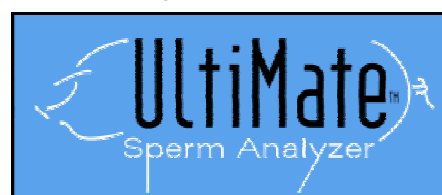
We have had swabs from a number of cases over the past few months that have been unsuccessfully treated with clindamycin, chosen because it is effective against anaerobic bacteria.

It is rare to culture anaerobic bacteria from these cases, so in that respect clindamycin is effective. However, the aerobic activity of this antibacterial is narrow, limited to Gram positive organisms, in particular staphylococci, against which it is very effective. Clindamycin has only negligible activity against Gram negative bacteria, including many we commonly isolate from these cases, such as *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, *Proteus mirabilis* and *Esch. coli*, all of which are delighted to colonise an anal sac devoid of Gram positive competition! The moral is that if you are presented with a badly infected anal sac or anal abscess and decide to reach for clindamycin, always reach for an additional antibacterial that has broad spectrum aerobic activity too.

Better still, submit a swab (in charcoal transport medium) before starting antibacterial therapy then treatment can be modified at an early stage, if necessary.

The next North West region NWL Clin Path Club meeting will be at 8.00 pm on 30 Jul 09 at The Tickled Trout, Preston, just off the M6. Mike Holgate will be speaking on a cardiology topic.

Computer Aided Sperm Analysis (CASA)



Building on their status as a reference laboratory for porcine andrology, NWL continues to offer state of the art computer aided porcine semen analysis using the Hamilton Thorne Ultimate at the Leeds site. This analyser incorporates a microscope and video, enabling measurement of the total spermatozoa count and motility, therefore the subjective estimation of motility by manual method is replaced by a very accurate, reproducible analysis dividing motility into progressive and non-progressive movement.

NWL Leeds offers andrology using computer aided sperm analysis (CASA) on both raw and extended pig semen samples.

NWL participates in the NEQAS Andrology external quality control scheme, using both manual and CASA techniques for assay of QC samples.