Case report: Canine Juvenile Cellulitis in Labrador Retriever Puppies

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ABSTRACT Five Labrador retriever puppies were whelped by a 3-year-old bitch. Three of the puppies displayed alopecia, erythema, scale, crust, ulceration, as well as nodular and pustular lesions, on the tails, limbs, and abdomens at 3 weeks of age, however, the other two puppies appeared normal. No significant parasites, bacteria, and fungi were found on Scotch tape strip examination. The diseased puppies were much improved after three to four weeks of treatment with oral corticoid steroid, vitamin B6, Coatex pump (VetPlus), and topical therapy with ChlorhexiDerm shampoo (DVM) and Flarzon ointment. [Liu PC, Lin CC, Lin SL, Lai CH, and *Wang WS. Canine juvenile cellulitis in Labrador Retriever puppies. Taiwan Vet J 34 (4): 192-197, 2008. *Corresponding author TEL: 886-4-22850894 ext. 508, FAX: 886-4-22862073, E-mail: wswang@nchu.edu.tw]

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INTRODUCTION

Canine juvenile cellulitis, also called juvenile pyoderma or puppy strangles, is an uncommon, granulomatous, and pustular disorder in puppies. Papules and pustules developed rapidly, especially on the lips and muzzle [4]. Additional findings may include fever, lethargy, lymphadenopathy, swollen feet, and subcutaneous nodules affecting the trunks [1].

This disease is most commonly found in puppies between three weeks and four months old [4,5,7], although most cases are between five to ten weeks old [3]. It has also occasionally been reported in young adults [4].

Golden Retrievers and Dachshunds have been shown to be predisposed breeds [1], and in Golden Retrievers, it is a serious problem [3]. Other predisposed breeds include the Labrador Retriever, Siberian Husky, Miniature Poodle, Chesapeake Bay Retriever, Lhasa Apso and crossbred dogs [7].

Differential diagnoses include deep pyoderma, dermatophytosis, demodicosis, and drug eruption. Diagnosis is based on history, clinical findings, and ruling out other differentials [1].