

## Chronic Bronchitis and Feline Asthma/Chronic Bronchitis

### Inflammatory Airway Disease Overview

#### Dogs

-Chronic Bronchitis and Eosinophilic Lung Disease

#### Cats

-Chronic Bronchitis and Feline Asthma

#### Canine Chronic Bronchitis

- Common cause of chronic cough
- Usually feel well
- Small > large breeds
- Middle-aged to older
- Can often be seen with airway collapse
- Clinical signs: may only be a daily cough
  - +/- exercise intolerance
  - +/- syncope if there is pulmonary hypertension

#### Diagnosis

- PE: Crackles, wheezes, expiratory effort with abdominal push
- Dx of exclusion, you will need to rule out other causes of cough
- Radiographs: normal to mild-sever bronchial pattern
- Bronchoscopy/BAL or ETW: Sterile bronchitis (usually non-degenerate neutrophilic)
- Culture: Negative

#### Treatment

- Weight Loss
- Saline nebulization and mucolytics prn
- Chronic inhaled Flovent/fluticasone (may also need an additional glucocorticoid taper)
- Theophylline RX: 10 mg/kg po bid
  - Bronchodilator (weak) with the addition of improved mucociliary clearance and diaphragmatic function

## **Eosinophilic Lung Disease**

Eosinophilic Bronchitis, Eosinophilic Bronchopneunopathy, Eosinophilic Granuloma

Treatment

- Weight loss prn
- Saline nebulization and mucolytics prn
- Initial oral glucocorticoid taper, some may need chronic oral prednisolone
- Chronic inhaled fluticasone bid
- Theophylline RX 10mg/kg po bid
- Eosinophilic granuloma form requires bronchoscopic (or surgical) removal of intraluminal granulomas

## **Feline Asthma**

Clinical signs: most common cause of cough in cats!

Signalment: young-middle aged cats

Exam: Expiratory wheeze +/- crackles

Thoracic Rads: mild-severe bronchial pattern (+/- atelectasis of R middle lung lobe due to bronchial mucus plugging)

Bronchoscopy/BAL or trach. Wash: eosinophilic inflammation

DDX: Rule out other causes of pulmonary eosinophilia (HW, Parasitic lung worms, environmental)

Treatment

Emergency

- Sedation
- Oxygen therapy
- Dexamethasone-SP IV
- Terbutaline 0.01mg/kg SQ/IM q8
- Albuterol inhaler q6h

Chronic

- Chronic inhaled Flovent (fluticasone)
- Initial oral pred taper

- Theophylline 50-100mg po q 24 in pm
- Weight loss, humidification, mucolytics prn, avoid dusty/scented litter, air purifiers

### **Feline Chronic Bronchitis**

Similar to feline asthma but irreversible damage to the airways

Usually sterile, non-degenerate neutrophilic inflammation

Cultures negative

Similar diagnostic and management as dogs with chronic bronchitis