

ASSESSMENT FORM FOR TICK PARALYSIS

(To aid with case assessment and therapy choice. This form modified from a proposed form produced by the Tick Paralysis Research Group, c/- R Atwell et al, 2001)

Signalment

Animal's name: _____ Owner's Name: _____ Dog / Cat
 Age: _____ Sex: _____ Weight: _____
 Preexisting cardiopulmonary problems: yes / no

Extent of toxicity

Ticks

Number: _____
 Locality: (1) _____ (2) _____ (3) _____
 Size (width mm): (1) _____ (2) _____ (3) _____

Initial Assessment

Circle choices below (to be totalled later)

	Mild	Moderate	Severe
GENERAL			
Score (Neuro-muscular junction)	1	2	3-4
Score (Chest)	AB	C	D
Mucosae	NAD	bright pink	dark red or cyanotic
HEART FUNCTION			
Heart sounds	NAD	softened	barely audible
Heart rate:			
Pulse amplitude (femoral)	NAD	low	barely palpable
LUNG FUNCTION			
Breathing patterns:			
Normal	yes	-	-
Obstructive (slow, deep)	no	yes	marked
- forced expiratory effort	no	yes	marked
- stridor (expir.)	no	yes	marked
- wheeze	no	yes	marked
- grunting	no	yes	marked
Restrictive (shallow, fast)	no	yes	marked
Resp. rate:			
- crackles	no	yes	marked
Coughing?	no	-	yes
OTHER			
Gagging? (choking)	no	-	yes
Anxiety level - increased?	no	yes	marked
Regurgitation/vomiting?	no	-	yes



Further assessment

	mild	moderate	severe
Blood - PCV	<45	45-55	>55
- Protein	65	65-75	>75
ECG - QT ^c (50-mm/sec) (QT ^c = QT / √ R - R)	280	280-300	>300
- T wave inversion (lead 2)	no	-	yes
X-rays- Pul.Oedema	no	-	yes
Inhalation	no	-	yes
Bronchial thickening	no	-	yes
Megaoesophagus	no	yes	marked
U/sound- FS%	>30	20-30	<20
General global activity*	NAD	reduced	v. reduced
Poor venous return*	no	yes	marked

* Specialist support/techniques

Qualitative feeling about case

"gut experience" etc	concerned	concerned	concerned
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Totals (summary score)

number of circled items in columns

Treatment Considerations

MILD TO MODERATE SCORES

- Sedation (ACP)?
- Anti anxiety? (proportional to need)
- Nasal O₂ (proportional to need)
- Atropine (usually only once if oesophagus sucked-out)
- TAS (one dose, no s/c depot, no repeat dose)
- Oesophageal suction
- Sternal recumbency or, if lateral, shoulder as highest point
- Other

MODERATE TO HIGH SCORES

- As per low score
- Anti-anxiety, e.g. Morphine 0.05mg/kg/hr CRI
- Fluids - colloids (proportional to need)
- Diuretics (usually once but proportional to need)
- Bronchodilators (proportional to need, response)
- Respiratory support (proportional to fatigue but treat pulmonary failure!)
- ? Calcium channel blocker (experimental)
- Extent of obstructive breathing
- Danger of choke? - suction
- Need for respirator support?
- Other

