USING IONIZING RADIATION
IN VETERINARY PRACTICE FOR
DIAGNOSIS AND THERAPY

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France
- Increased demand in veterinary medicine
- Use of more advanced diagnostic and therapeutic techniques
- Specific challenges in relation to optimization of radiation protection and safety in occupational exposure
Alongside with the « humans »

- X-Rays (Roentgen 1895)
- 1896 – 1st papers Veterinary Radiology
- 1905 – Veterinary Studies presented at Congress
- 1939 – The Veterinary Student

The Significance of the X-Ray in Veterinary Medicine

Russell Beamer
IN THE years between the announcement of their discovery by Wilhelm Konrad Roentgen, on December 28, 1895, and the present, x-rays have contributed greatly in advancing medical knowledge. In internal medicine, surgery and dentistry these rays have been of very great value in the practice of veterinary medicine as a diagnostic aid but until recently their importance and value in the practice of veterinary medicine and surgery have been little appreciated. Trained veterinary scientists, unfortunately, have made no concerted effort to apply x-rays in the study and diagnosis of animal pathology. It is the firm conviction, however, of those who have engaged in this work that its importance and value will increase as more experience is gained. The veterinary profession of recent years has become x-ray conscious and rightfully so, as there is an important, necessary, useful field for its use in veterinary medicine. However, the use of the x-ray is not entirely without its hazards.

Hazards

There are two “hazards” commonly associated with the operation of x-ray equipment, one being electrical shock, and the other the damage done as the result of cumulative effects of x-ray on the body tissues. The first danger may occur due to the necessity for high voltage at the x-ray tube for the production of x-radiation.

The other hazard—a very important one, especially to the small animal practitioner—arises from the absorption of x-radiation by the operator, patient, or anyone else in its field of influence; and, because its effects are not apparent immediately after exposure takes place, it becomes necessary to have a complete understanding of what it is and the precautions necessary for adequate protection.

Effects

The physiological effects of x-ray are dependent, among other things, upon the cumulative absorption over a given period. Fortunately, however, the living body is capable of throwing off these effects if the total quantity absorbed within a given time is not too great. Whether by cumulative absorption or from continuous exposure, an overdose of x-ray produces blood changes, loss of hair, malignancies, malfunction of internal organs, erythemas, and the like, the latter usually referred to as “x-ray burns”. The first manifestation of too much exposure to a given part may be a loss of hair or reddening...
Pubmed Trends / Literature
Radiology / RO Training

- Recognised Specialists Training
  - 1961 ACVR (x267)
  - 1992 ACVR-Radiation Oncology (x70)
  - 1994 ECDVI (x292)
  - 2014 ECDVI-RO (x7)

- Societies (5 continents)

- Other Specialties: Dentistry, Orthopedics, Neurology, Oncology
Veterinary World

- Academic institutions (variable equipment)
- Large Private Networks (all possible equipment)
  - US, UK, EU
- Independent clinics and hospitals (radiology suite +/- CTs)
  - France, 85% practices (6300) equipped with 1+ Xray

- Teleradiology
- Tele-RT planning
Veterinary Radiology – Everywhere, Everyone
Veterinary Computer Tomography

Available +++

2-64 slices CTs
Cone-Beam CTs
Veterinary PET imaging (rare)
Veterinary Dentistry

At institutions with dentistry experts
Veterinary Interventional Radiology
Veterinary Nuclear Medicine

+ Iodine 131 for hyperthyroidism
Veterinary Radiotherapy

40 US/CA
20 EU
+ Australia
+ Japan
+ ...
Questions?