

Necropsy/Veterinary Examination Report

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Report Date: 11/6/2016

Location/Event: BLM Owyhee Complex Gather **Exam Date:** 11/5/2016

Animal ID: >20 years of Age, Bay, Mare, Freeze Brand AG on LH

History: Mare was found dead in pen at daybreak 11/5/2016 in a state of rigor in right lateral recumbence. Mare was gathered on 11/4/2016 from Chimney Creek area and transported to temporary holding at IL ranch without incident. All horses sorted and were observed resting normally and provided grass hay and water before leaving temporary holding in late afternoon of 11/4/2016. BLM COR and contractor requested the necropsy exam to determine cause of death.

Examination: Mare was transported to disposal site on IL Ranch & BLM COR Bruce Thompson accompanied me to site to witness the exam.

A visual exam with the animal in lateral recumbence was conducted and the mare was estimated to be > 20 year old by the examination of teeth wear pattern. Also she was observed to be a 4 on the Henneke BC scale. The sclera and mucous membranes inside vulva showed mild icterus and the mare was extremely bloated. RF hoof wall was observed to be showing a chronic abnormal wear pattern on the toe and lateral surface.

A necropsy exam of the thoracic and abdominal cavity was conducted. No unusual findings in the thoracic cavity including the heart, lungs, diaphragm, esophagus, aorta or trachea. However the abdominal exam yielded some abnormal findings. Upon opening the abdomen the spleen was found to be displaced medially away from the body wall by a left dorsal displacement of the large colon. The large colon was observed extended with gas and injected with blood on the lower dependent portion. A normal amount of abdominal fluid was observed but was serosanguinous in color indicating blood or leakage. The cecum was mostly empty of hay/grass but extremely distended with gas. The lateral surface of the spleen was observed to have eccymotic hemorrhages on ~ 1/3 of the surface. All other organs including the stomach, small intestines, liver, kidneys, bladder & non-gravid uterus were found to be normal on gross observation.

Diagnosis/Differentials: Colic due to gaseous distension and left dorsal displacement of the large colon, shock from pain of distension and leakage of blood or contents through colon membranes. Cause of icterus unknown as liver, kidneys, blood all appeared to be normal on gross exam.

Conclusion(s)/Recommendation(s): Left dorsal displacement of the distended large colon or “nephro-splenic entrapment” with severe gaseous distention and shock. The acute occurrence was not preexisting or necessarily gather related. No recommendations as this is a type of colic that can spontaneously occur in any equine population.