

Ref: P-ID-1068

Date: 5th January 2010

Dear Mrs Wong:

TB West was presented to my clinic on 2nd January 2010 with complains of weakening hindlimbs to complete non-usage over a period of 1 week. Apparently, the carer for this stray cat complained that someone struck this cat with a stick, the cat screamed and went into hiding. No veterinary care was provided until 2nd January 2010. Radiographs were taken and reported as follows:

RADIOGRAPH REPORT FOR 'TB West' Stray Cat

Following is the radiograph report of the above mentioned stray cat. To help you better understand the radiograph, a CD copy of the cat's radiograph is provided for your own keep. It would be advisable to have the CD images and this report interpreted by your regular veterinarian or myself.

Report:

Lateral view of the abdomen:

There is a large amount of fecal material in the central and caudal abdomen with a contrasting gassy stomach and the small intestines. The bladder looks relatively large as well. The liver and spleen are unremarkable. The kidneys are obscured by the fecal material from this view. The cranial spine and head and neck region is unremarkable but a clear and distinctive fracture lesion is visible on L3 of the lumbar spinal column. There is a slightly more radiodense involvement around L3 indicative of an inflammatory process. The cranial aspect of L3's vertebrae disc shows some irregularities with the break of uniformity on of the bony structure of the vertebrae disc. There is an obvious sudden 'dip' seen in the cranial aspect of L3's vertebrae disc. This is consistent with a fracture lesion.

Dorsoventral view of the abdomen:

The left aspect of the abdomen is filled with rather thick and big fecal material with the gassy small intestines and stomach taking more of the center stage. The kidneys cannot be viewed in this view as well as they have been obscured by the gassy intestines and fecal material. The bladder is relatively enlarged. The liver is unremarkable. There is a very obvious oblique complete fracture of L3's vertebrae body in this view. The spinal cord cannot be seen without the use of a contrast medium or an MRI will reveal the full extent of the trauma and damage. It is highly likely that the spinal cord is impinged on and compressed to a great extent. This is consistent with the presentation of the above mentioned cat that is showing signs of hindlimb paralysis without deep pain sensation and the ability to urinate and defaecate.

Remarks:

The spinal trauma seen in the radiographs of this cat is highly likely caused by blunt force injury inflicted either by a stick object used with great force or a road traffic accident. The cat is currently unable to defecate and urinate on its own and requires manual expression at least three times daily. The well-being and the quality of life for this cat has been severely compromised and generally warrants this cat's life to be humanely terminated should proper healthcare cannot be provided. Surgery at this stage of the injury can only be a 'fifty-fifty' percent chance of some sort of recovery (if any).