

Anthrax may occur in all species of animals. Epidemics among human beings have occurred as well as epizootics among animals. Sheep, horses, cattle, swine, dogs, cats, and birds may be affected in the order mentioned. Anthrax, however, may be contracted by birds providing they are so treated that their normal body temperature is lowered.

A microscopic examination is the sole means of positively diagnosing this disease.

The bacilli of anthrax are microscopic in size, and occur in enormous numbers in the blood of affected animals. Their presence in the blood renders it tarry in consistency, very dark in colour and prevents it clotting after the death of the animal. These germs form themselves into long chains during their multiplication and growth, and, when deprived of favourable surroundings, resting bodies (spores) are formed, these having special resistant powers so that ordinary disinfectants do not destroy their vitality unless applied for a considerable time. These resting forms or spores do not form in the carcass of an animal dead of the disease, provided the skin is left whole on the animal, as a large amount of air (oxygen) is required for their development, although they are found in the bloody discharges which exude from the natural openings of the body, such as the mouth, nose, anus, etc.

The reappearance of anthrax on ground once infected is due to these spores or resistant forms which retain their vitality for years, even though their surroundings are unfavourable. The destruction of anthrax germs within the carcass, as above described, is in part due to the presence of other microbes, which, while otherwise harmless, are their natural enemies.

One may be led to suspect anthrax by the short duration of the illness. The animal may have been perfectly healthy the night previous, but is found dead in the morning and is also observed to have a bloody discharge from the natural openings of the body (mouth, nostrils, anus, etc.). These features should arouse suspicion, and make one exceedingly careful in handling the carcass, so as to avoid infecting himself and others or distributing the infection over the ground when removing the carcass to a suitable place for burial.

If there is still doubt, place a few drops of blood on a clean piece of note-paper, permit it to dry in the air, fold and place in an envelope. Mark the outside of the envelope with data which will identify it, such as the name of the owner of the animal, the kind of animal: sheep, horse, cow, etc. Enclose this envelope containing the blood specimen in another envelope which should contain a letter giving further details and forward to the "Biological Laboratory, Ottawa." A careful study should be made of the Animal Contagious Diseases Act and the regulations made thereunder relating to anthrax for the purpose of safeguarding the interests of all parties concerned.

A post mortem examination may be performed, but this is not advised as it is a very dangerous procedure. At a post mortem on a case of anthrax, bloody stains are noted throughout the tissues and organs of the body. The spleen (milt) is greatly enlarged, very dark or black in colour; the blood is dark in colour, tarry and does not clot after death.

Disposition of Carcasses.—The carcass of such an animal should be destroyed by fire as soon as the diagnosis is made or suspected, care being taken that all discharges and litter about the animal be burned with it, even to the halter. The animal should, under no consideration, be skinned, as this is a

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