



VREDENBURG DIEREHOSPITAAL
VREDENBURG VETERINARY HOSPITAL
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POST MORTEM REPORT

6/9/2023

J57/23

Large X breed female dog,
Intact, cream coloured

Cause of Death:

Sepsis due to untreated PYOMETRA

Pyometra is a life-threatening condition that can affect unsterilized female dogs. It occurs when the uterus becomes infected and filled with pus. This condition is primarily seen in older, intact (non-spayed) female dogs, typically a few weeks to a few months after their heat cycle. Here's why a female dog with pyometra can be at risk of death:

Bacterial Infection: Pyometra develops when the uterus becomes a breeding ground for bacteria. During a dog's heat cycle, the cervix (the opening to the uterus) opens temporarily, allowing bacteria from the vagina to enter the uterus. In unsterilized dogs, this process can happen repeatedly with each heat cycle. Over time, bacterial overgrowth can lead to a severe uterine infection.

Uterine Distention: The infected uterus starts to fill with pus, dead tissue, and other fluids. This causes the uterus to distend and become enlarged. The accumulation of pus can put significant pressure on surrounding organs, leading to discomfort and pain.

Systemic Infection: As the infection progresses, bacteria and toxins can leak into the bloodstream, causing a systemic infection (sepsis). Sepsis is a severe and life-threatening condition that can lead to multiple

Besoektye: Vredenburg Ma-Vry: 9am-13pm, 15:30pm-17:30pm en Saterdag: 9am-11:30am
Saldanha Kliniek: Ma-Vry 14pm-15pm; Hopefield Kliniek: Di & Do 14pm-15pm

organ failure. The dog's body may struggle to fight off the infection, and vital organs like the liver, kidneys, and heart may be compromised.

Dehydration and Electrolyte Imbalance: Dogs with pyometra often experience excessive fluid loss due to the infection and the production of pus. This can lead to dehydration and electrolyte imbalances, further compromising the dog's overall health.

Lack of Treatment: If left untreated, pyometra is almost always fatal. Even with prompt veterinary intervention, treatment can be complicated and expensive, but it offers the best chance of saving the dog's life. The standard treatment for pyometra is an emergency ovariohysterectomy (spaying) to remove the infected uterus and ovaries.

The individual animal on which the autopsy was performed was emaciated and in poor condition. The size of the puss filled uterus suggests that the dog has been suffering from this condition for a long time. Symptoms of illness (lethargy, anorexia, possible discharge from the vulva, diarrhoea and vomiting) would have been observed for days before the animal death- owners were negligent in seeking veterinary care.



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