

Necropsy/Veterinary Examination Report

Prepared by: Dr. Al Kane
USDA APHIS Veterinary Services
Ft. Collins, CO

Report Date: 1/28/17

Location/Event: Sulphur WH Gather

Exam Date: 1/26/17

Animal ID: 3.5 year old, bay, stud colt

History: A bay colt was observed coming to the trap with a Grade 3.5 lameness on the RF. The lameness was obvious at a trot and perceptible at a walk, but not readily apparent at a canter. As it neared the trap the colt was allowed to drop back from the group and later roped about a half a mile from the trap. A trailer was then used to transport the colt to the trap. The colt was limping during weight bearing but flexed and swung the limb relatively well. He placed the limb in an adducted position when walking. He settled in the colt pen of the trap and showed no signs of distress.

Examination: Chad Hunter, the gather COR was present during my examinations.

A visual ante-mortem exam was done as the colt was unloaded and in the trap. A large (20x12wx6d inch) swelling was noted over the area of the right scapula. After resting in the trap for a couple hours, the colt's condition was reassessed. The lameness had progressed to a Grade 5, the swelling appeared unchanged, but the colt was reluctant to bear weight on the limb and had minimal flexion of the limb. The BLM was advised of a poor prognosis for recovery, and the colt was euthanized at the trap site.

I conducted a postmortem examination of the colt focused on the RF limb. The colt was approximately 3.5 years old and appeared small for its age. There was an unusual amount of medial-lateral movement and crepitus in the scapula with adduction of the limb. The swollen area was fluctuant on the caudal side but mostly firm and hard on the cranial side proximal to the shoulder joint. On skinning and cross section dark subcutaneous and intramuscular hemorrhages were apparent. There were some areas of dark red clotted blood, but also areas of edema and serum separation from fibrin and organized, clotted blood. There was a transverse, comminuted fracture across the middle of the scapula with a large (1/2"x3") fragment and several smaller fragments at the fracture site. The caudal ends of the fracture areas and the large fragment were sharp, but the cranial ends were rounded and much smoother.

Diagnosis/Differentials: Closed, complete and comminuted fracture of the right scapula.

Conclusion(s)/Recommendation(s): This wild horse colt had a fractured scapula with a poor prognosis for recovery. There was evidence the fracture had occurred some days prior to the day the horse was captured. Several motor vehicle collisions with horses had been reported in the last several months on a nearby highway, and this or a kick by another horse could have been the cause of the fracture.