

Necropsy/Veterinary Examination Report

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Report Date: 11/8/2016

Location/Event: BLM Owyhee Complex Gather **Exam Date:** 11/7/2016

Animal ID: 12 years of Age, Brown, Mare, Freeze Brand on LH with JB

History: Mare was found dead in pen at daybreak 11/7/2016 in a state of rigor in right lateral recumbence. Mare was gathered on 11/6/2016 from Owyhee area and transported to temporary holding at IL ranch without incident. During sorting the mare was observed to have a large ventral right swelling along the lower right abdomen which was thought to be a body wall tear (hernia) and given a poor prognosis for long term survival. She was sorted and observed resting normally and provided grass hay and water before we left the temporary holding in late afternoon of 11/6/2016. BLM COR and contractor requested the necropsy exam to determine cause of death on morning of 11/7/2016.

Examination: Mare was transported to disposal site on IL Ranch & BLM IC Chad Hunter 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 12 years old by the examination of teeth wear pattern. Also she was observed to be a 4 on the Henneke BC scale.

A necropsy exam of the body wall & abdominal cavity was conducted. The abdominal exam yielded the following abnormal findings. Upon opening the abdomen along the linea alba adjacent to the body wall abnormality the thickness of the wall around the tear which was ~ the size of a large watermelon, the body wall tissue was thickened and edematous with fibrin indicating a tear of several days to weeks prior to the gather. Additionally, several distended & congested loops of jejunum were found to be trapped in the body wall tear. The loops of intestine were trapped in the defect by the weight of the cecum & large colon and the small intestines' mesentery was friable and becoming necrotic. Consequently the function & circulation of the small intestine were compromised. Additionally, the stomach was observed to be greatly distended to the ~ size of a beach ball. The stomach was filled with fluid due to the small intestine obstruction. The mare died from complications due to this type of obstruction and colic.

All other organs including the liver, kidneys, bladder & non-gravid uterus were found to be normal on gross observation.

Diagnosis/Differentials: Entrapment of the small intestine within the right ventral lateral (hernia) body wall tear and subsequent life threatening colic.

Conclusion(s)/Recommendation(s): The body wall tear occurred sometime prior to the gather. These type of injuries or tears can be caused by kicks, falls or complications in the process of foaling. The body wall tear was pre-existing prior to the gather however

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the entrapment of intestine and colic was an acute complication. No recommendations as this is a type of colic could not have been prevented or mitigated. At sorting the mare was given a poor prognosis for recovery and long term survival due to the likelihood of complications a body wall tear of that magnitude can manifest.