

Necropsy Report

Report Date: August 24, 2011

Performed By: Dr. Martha Elmore, VMO
USDA APHIS Veterinary Services
Lincoln, NE

Location: Buck Bald Wild Horse Gather

Date of Necropsy: August 24, 2011

History – On August 21, 2011, a mare collapsed while entering the trap. She was found responsive in left lateral recumbency. She was dyspneic, with harsh, irregular respirations at a rate of 110. Her mucous membranes were white with greater than 5 second capillary refill time. The contractor assisted her into sternal recumbency. After ten to fifteen minutes, her respiration rate decreased slightly, her mucous membranes became pale pink. She stood with some encouragement, but was very weak. She walked the short distance into the trap, where I observed continued dyspnea and orthopnea for the next 20 minutes. In addition to the respiratory difficulties, she repeatedly looked at her flank and pawed the ground.

Once the mare was stable, she was loaded into the trailer and traveled uneventfully to the temporary holding facility. Once in the chute, I administered 500mg Flunixin Meglumine.

Over the next 48 hours, I monitored the quality of her respirations and her behavior twice daily. No abnormalities were noted. On the morning of August 24, 2011, the COR found the mare deceased in the dry mare pen.

Examination - This was a carcass of a 900 lb, 14–15 year-old female, chestnut, Mustang in good nutritional condition. Her body condition score was 5. Upon gross observation, a small amount of blood-tinged fluid was present in the nares.

There was approximately 4 liters of blood-tinged, serous pleural fluid. The lungs were diffusely wet and pale pink. The pericardium contained 100 cc clear, serous fluid. The heart was enlarged. The right ventricular free wall thickness was approximately 1 cm. The left ventricular free wall thickness was 4 cm. No lesions were present on the heart valves.

No gross lesions were present in the abdomen.

The animal was not pregnant.

Gross Findings

Thoracic Cavity – Hydrothorax

Lungs – Pulmonary Edema

Heart – General Heart Enlargement

Gross Diagnosis

Heart Failure – Long standing chronic condition of unknown cause