

Necropsy Report

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Date of Observations: August 7, 2011

Location/Event: Buck/Bald Complex Horse Gather

Animal ID: 4 month old bay filly

History: The pilot radioed to report a foal that had dropped behind a group of horses and asked the wranglers to bring her in individually. The filly stood still and allowed the wranglers to drop a rope over her head. The trailer was taken to the foal and she was loaded without incident. After her arrival at the temporary holding facility a visual examination was performed with her standing and in motion. The filly had severe abnormalities of the flexor tendons of both hind limbs. The foal was extremely coon-footed with her fetlocks of both hind limbs touching the ground intermittently as she walked. Due to the severity of her condition and a poor prognosis for recovery, the animal was euthanized.

Examination: The post mortem examination of the hind limbs revealed that the filly had severe developmental anomalies of the flexor tendons of both hind legs. There was a chronic tendonitis characterized by enlarged and swollen tendons with evidence of bleeding in the tendon sheaths of all the flexor tendons in the fetlock and pastern areas. The connective tissues surrounding the tendons and the subcutaneous tissues in these areas were also bloody. No abnormalities were observed upon examination of the thoracic and abdominal cavities.

Conclusion: The 4 month old filly had a pre-existing, severe, developmental condition affecting the plantar support structures of the hind fetlocks. The condition was characterized by dropped fetlocks such that the fetlocks touched the ground at a walk and her prognosis for recovery was poor with little hope of improvement.