ELECTROPLESSION IN TAMANDUA TETRADACTYLA LINNAEUS, 1758 (PILOSA, MYRMECOPHAGIDAE) - CASE REPORT

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RESUMO

Tamandua tetradactyla, popularly known as collared anteater, occurs in several countries in the Americas and in Brazil appears in all biomes. It has medium size and a prehensile tail, which is extremely useful to arboreal and terrestrial habits of these animals. They are potential victims of electrical discharges due to easy access to electricity poles and wires in urban and / or peri-urban areas. The aim of this study was to report a case of electroplession in Collared anteater, covering therapy and pathological evaluation. Veterinary monitoring of a Tamandua tetradactyla was carried out from the moment of entry into The Pernambuco Wild Animal Sorting Center (CETAS Tangara), located in Recife-PE, Brazil on July 13, 2020 until its death on July 15, 2020, followed by necroscopic evaluation. The specimen was an adult, 2,800kg, free-living, female, presented burns consistent with electroplession. Its body score was low and behavior was apathetic. Burns were observed in the palmar region of two thoracic members, with edema, absence of claws in the left one and tissue with a third degree burn with friable blackish content. Therefore, lesion cleaning and topical treatment were performed, in addition to a protocol for analgesia (Tramadol 5mg / kg / SID; Meloxicam 2% 0.5mg / kg / SID; Dipyrone 25mg / kg / SID) and antibiotic therapy (Enrofloxacin 2.5 % 5mg / kg / SID). Feeding was forced with a specific anteater diet (TID). After two days of treatment, the animal had a clinical worsening and death was confirmed. The necroscopic examination revealed pulmonary changes consistent with edema, heterogeneity, hemorrhages, atelectasis and emphysema. Presence of mild enteritis in the duodenum was identified, liver with whitish spots, covering the parenchyma and congested pancreas was verified. Blackened spots on the peritoneum (1mm) compatible with electrical discharge, the probable cause of death being: respiratory failure and cachexia. Due to the arboreal habit of Pilosa also as sloths, these animals can reach high voltage poles and be victims of electrical discharges. However, anteaters because they have part of movement in the ground, are less common victims, being the only case of anteater victim of electric shock reported in CETAS Tangará in 2020. The necropsy findings obtained in lungs and heart of the electrocuted animal corroborate with findings by other authors who described the occurrence of pulmonary edema, poly visceral congestion, heart containing dark and liquid blood and punctate hemorrhages. In this report, tissue changes in abdominal cavity were also evidenced, which according to Cooper (1995) can be explained by the cutaneous dissipation of energy, with minimal or no injury. Inadequate nutritional status also intensifies complications and rates of morbidity and mortality, which are generally high in burn patients. Although not a common accident in anteaters, the severity of injuries and bodily changes caused by electric shock determined the animal's death, which is also associated with its low body score. The clinical treatment used was not enough to prevent the progression of metabolic changes caused by the electrical discharge.

PALAVRAS-CHAVE: Electric shock, Electrical injuries, Veterinary Forensic Medicine, Veterinary Forensic Pathology, Xenarthrans.

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