


UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

Common Diseases and Treatments  
for Cervidae

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## Cervid Farming

- 4.6 billion dollar industry (Texas A & M study 2008)
- Breeding stock
- Hunt ranching
- Urine collection
- Pets



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## Veterinary Services

- Value of the animal
- Producer knowledge base
- Difficult to diagnose
  - Natural behavior
  - Handling
- Difficult to treat
  - Handling
  - Temperament
  - behavior

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## Drugs

- Extra label
- Long acting
- Remote injection
- Pole syringe
- Blow dart
- Water medication
- Feed medication

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## Enteric Diseases

- **E. coli**
  - Scours in young fawns
  - Vaccination of does prefawning
    - Hard to do
    - Serotypes
    - Cattle vaccines
  - Antiserums/antibodies
    - Cattle
    - Equine
    - Sheep
  - Colostrum supplements

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## E. Coli treatment

- **Early**
- **Injectables**
  - Nuflor, etc
- **Oral**
  - SMZ TMP
- **Fluids**
  - Oral calf preps
  - IV/SQ



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## Coccidiosis

- Decoquinate
- Amprolium
- Ponazuril
- SMZ TMP
- Sulfadimethoxine
- Feed
- Water
- milk

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## Clostridium

- Sudden death
- “ bloat” ?
  - Dirt feeding
- C & D antitoxin
  - Birth (oral and SQ)
  - Repeat as necessary
- Parental and oral PPG

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## Nematodes

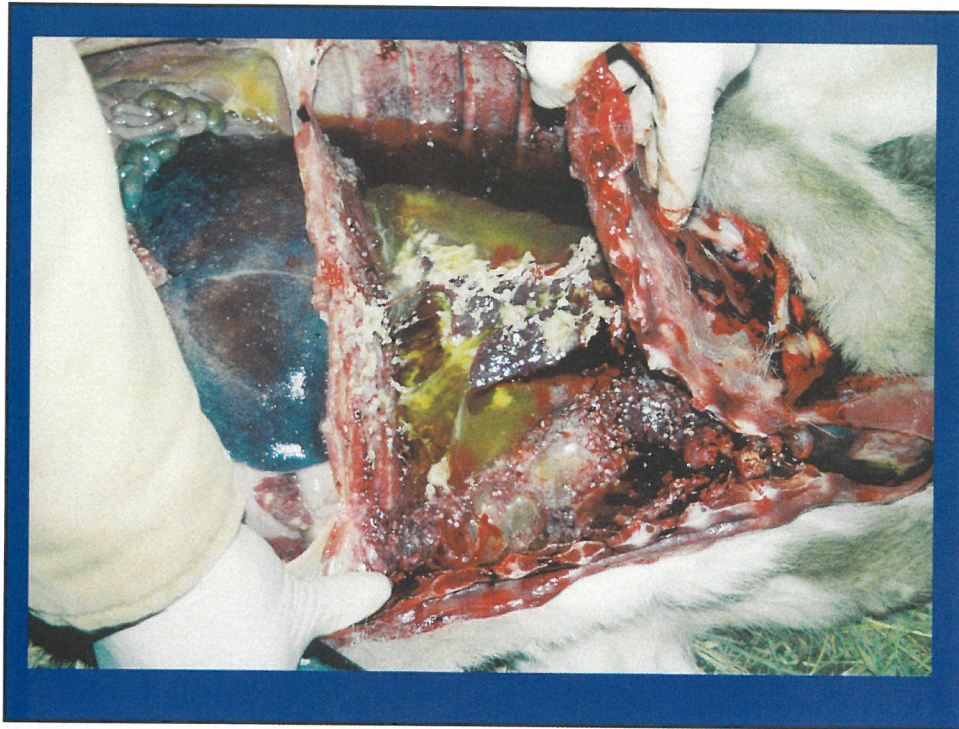
- High concentrations of animals
- Death loss/suboptimal performance
- Topical dewormers
- Injectable dewormers
- Feed
- Water
- fecals

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## Pneumonia

- *Pasteurella multocida*
- *Mannheimia hemolytica*
- *Fusobacterium necrophorum* or *varians*
- Early treatment!!!
- Oral meds in milk for fawns
- Long acting injectables in others
  - Tulathromycin, ceftiofur, florfenicol, tetracyclines, etc....
- NSAIDs

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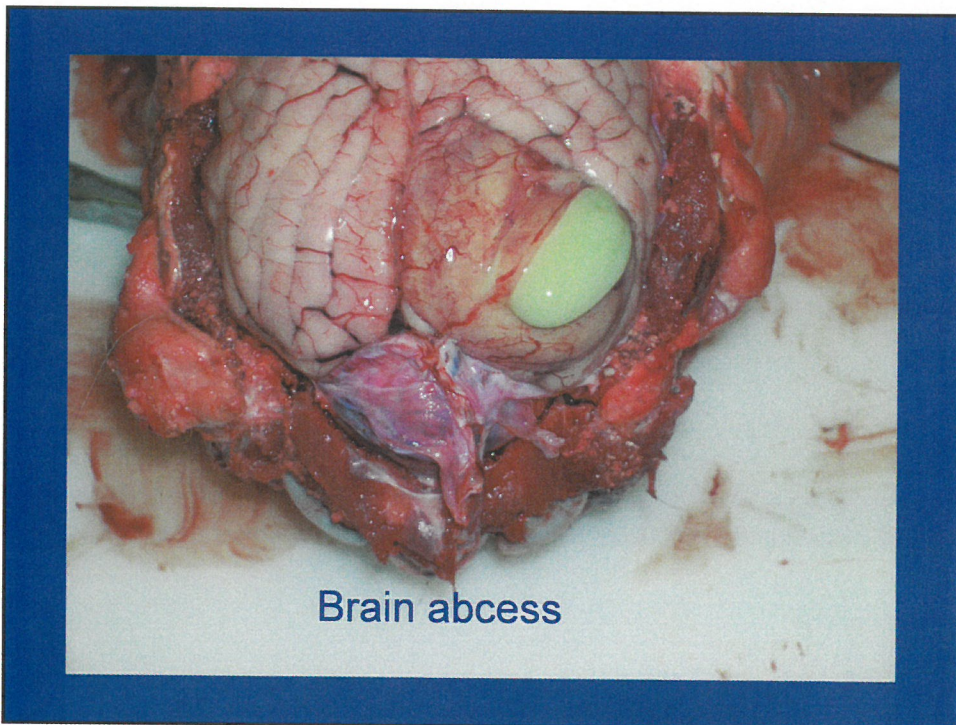
## Fusobacteria

- Two strains??
- Necrobacillosis, foot rot, necrotic stomatitis and lumpy jaw
- Antibiotic therapy: early aggressive
  - PPG, Benz P, tetracycline, sulfa, tulathromycin, ceftiofur, etc.
- Drain and flush
- Amputate toes

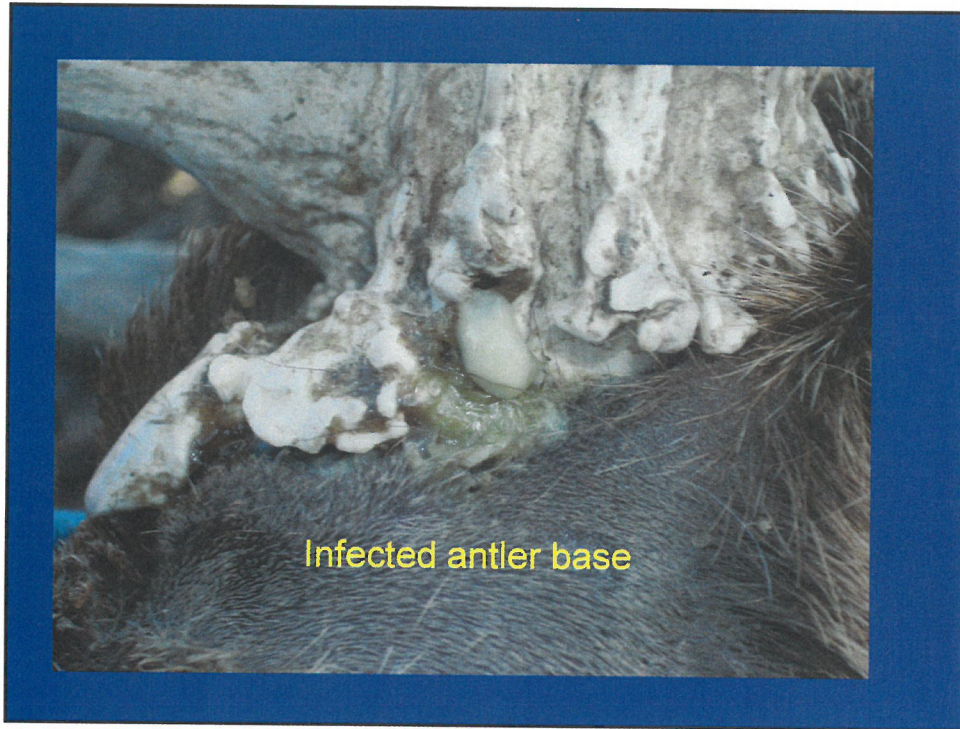
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## Fractures

- Common
- Trauma
  - Fighting
  - Handling
  - Darting
  - Dogs
  - Poor facilities

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## Fractures

- Benign neglect
- Casts/splints
  - Fiberglass
  - Dog splints
  - PVC pipe
  - Aluminum
- Pins/plates/external fixation

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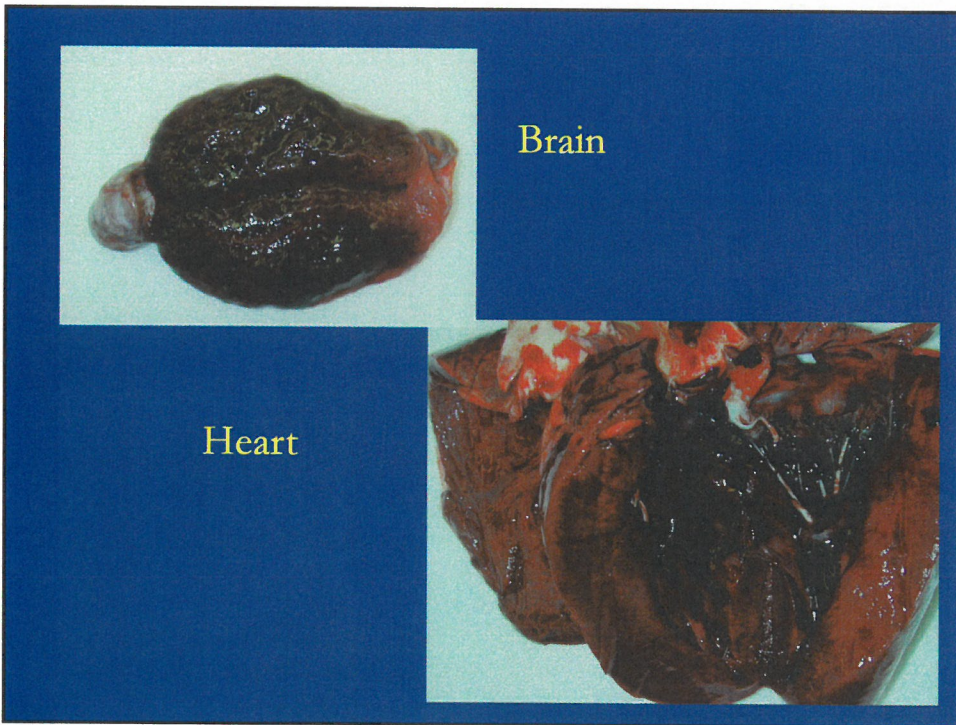
## Clinical Signs

- Fever
- Mucopurulent nasal discharge
- Tongue may be swollen and cyanotic
- Edema of the submandibular area
- Conjunctivitis
- Coronitis
- Recumbency
- Death

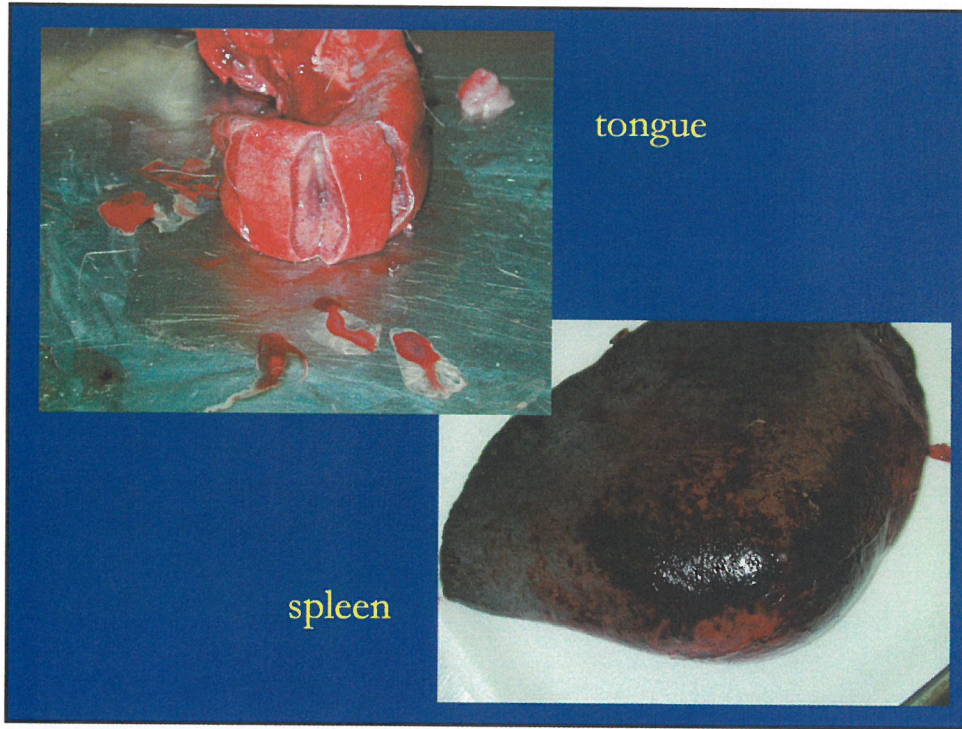
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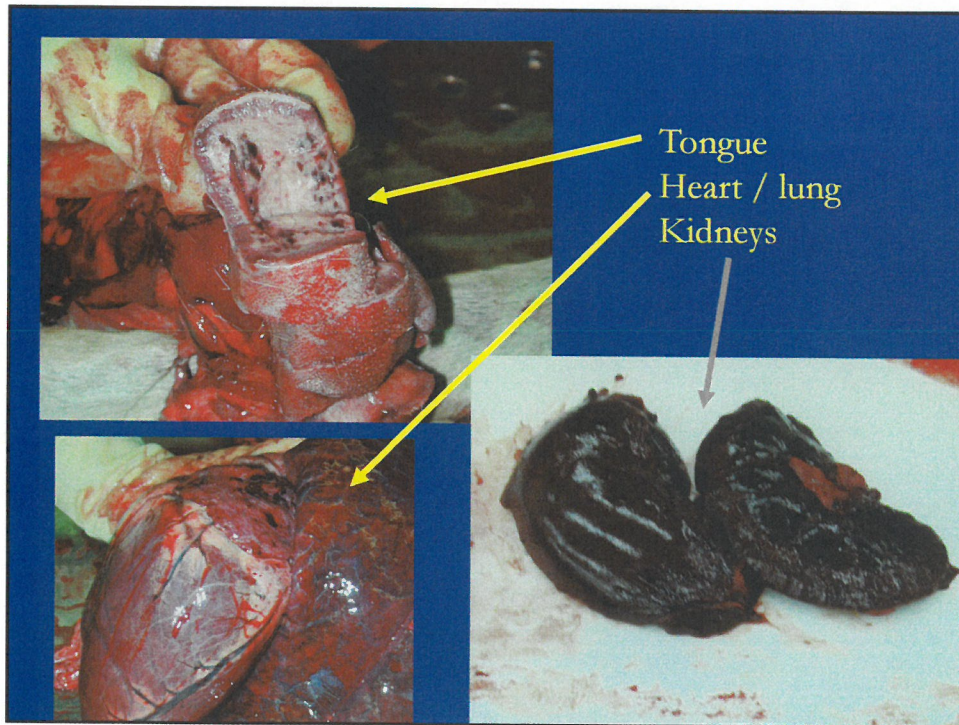
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# Treatment

- Tears
- Prayer
- Shovel
- Antibiotics
- NSAIDs
- Fluids
- Supportive care
- Stress!!!!



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Separation of the hoof wall after survival from Hemorrhagic Disease

Hemorrhage of the conjunctiva



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## Prevention

- **NO** Commercial Vaccine: Autogenous possible
- Reduce breeding/hiding areas
- Fly spays
- Backrubbers
- Foggers
- Genetics
- ??????

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## Antler Care

- Injury during velvet
  - Antibiotics & NSAIDs
  - Fly/maggot control
  - Life threatening
  - Permanent damage?
- Hard antler
  - Removal
  - Infected pedicles

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## Ulcers

- Common
  - Fawns
  - Stressed deer
    - LAI
    - Poor facilities
    - Overcrowding
    - Social groups

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## Ulcers

- Clinical signs
  - Poor doing
  - Rough hair coat
  - Poor appetite
  - Diarrhea
  - Melena
- Not responsive to other treatments

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## Ulcers

- Dietary changes
- Ulcer medication
  - Omeprazole
  - Cimetidine
  - Rantidine
  - Aluminum hydroxide
  - Magnesium hydroxide
  - sulcrafate

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## Ulcers

- Social
  - Large groups
  - Isolation
  - Peer group
- Compounding pharmacies
- “Treats” that they will consume readily
- Don’t let treatment lead to more stress

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## Deantlering

- Very common
- DO NOT injure the pedicle
- When cut after velvet shedding do not need anesthesia ?
- Chute restraint
- General anesthesia
- Do immediately post velvet shedding
  - Decrease fighting and injuries

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## Deantlering

- Human safety issues
  - Hand reared bucks
  - Rut
- Fence and equipment damage
- Kill does
- Velvetting
  - Timing
  - Anesthesia
  - Blood loss/fly strike

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