

Case 10

An Unusual cause of Dyspnoea in a 2yr old dog

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Case Presentation

A two year old female entire, miniature Dachshund weighing 4.75kg presented with sudden onset dyspnoea and tachypnoea shortly after a walk where it had been observed playing with a “puffball” mushroom. Abnormalities on clinical examination included harsh lung sounds, tachycardia (heart rate 160 beats per minute (bpm)) and tachypnoea (respiratory rate 80 per minute). Initial treatment comprised dexamethasone 0.3 mg/kg intravenously (IV) and etamiphylline 100mg twice daily orally. The dog showed some initial clinical improvement before deteriorating again over the following 5-7 days. At this point the dog was pyrexia (39.7°C), dull and inappetent. The respiratory rate had increased to 100 per minute with harsh lung sounds and a persistent tachycardia (160 bpm). No cough had been reported but the dog seemed to have increased swallowing effort. Blood was obtained for routine haematology and biochemistry and the results were unremarkable apart from a mild hypercholesterolaemia (9.69mmol/L, Reference range 2.84-8.27mmol/L). The dog was anaesthetised and thoracic radiographs obtained (see Figures 1 and 2). A bronchoalveolar lavage (BAL) was performed and samples submitted for cytological evaluation. (Figures 3 and 4)

Task

Describe the cytological findings in figures 3 and 4 and suggest the most likely diagnosis in this case.

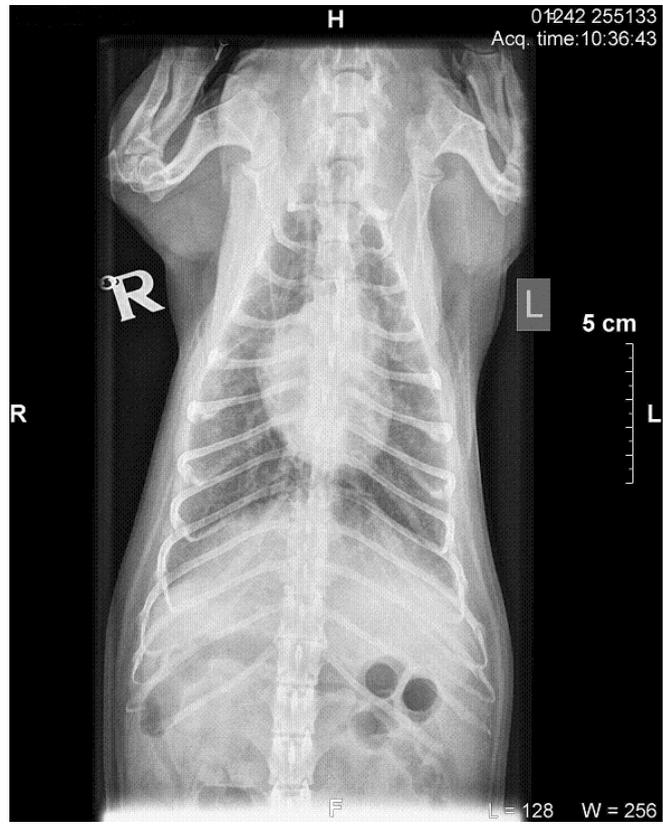


Figure 1: Dorsoventral chest radiograph

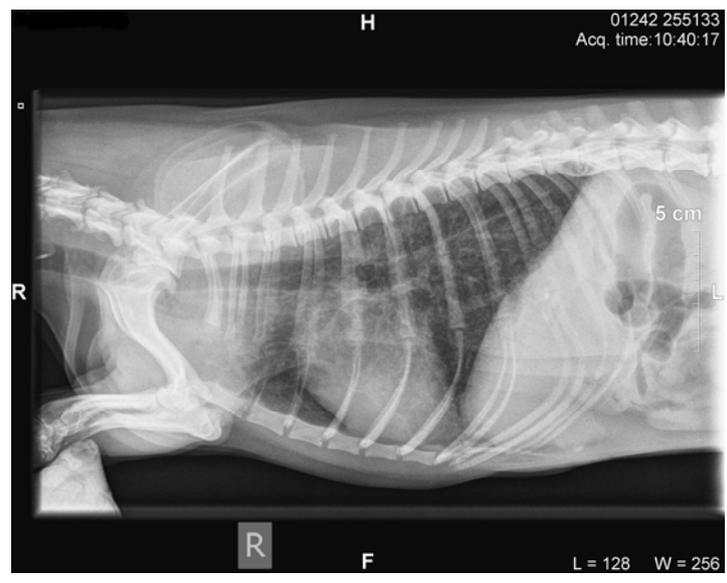


Figure 2: Lateral chest radiograph

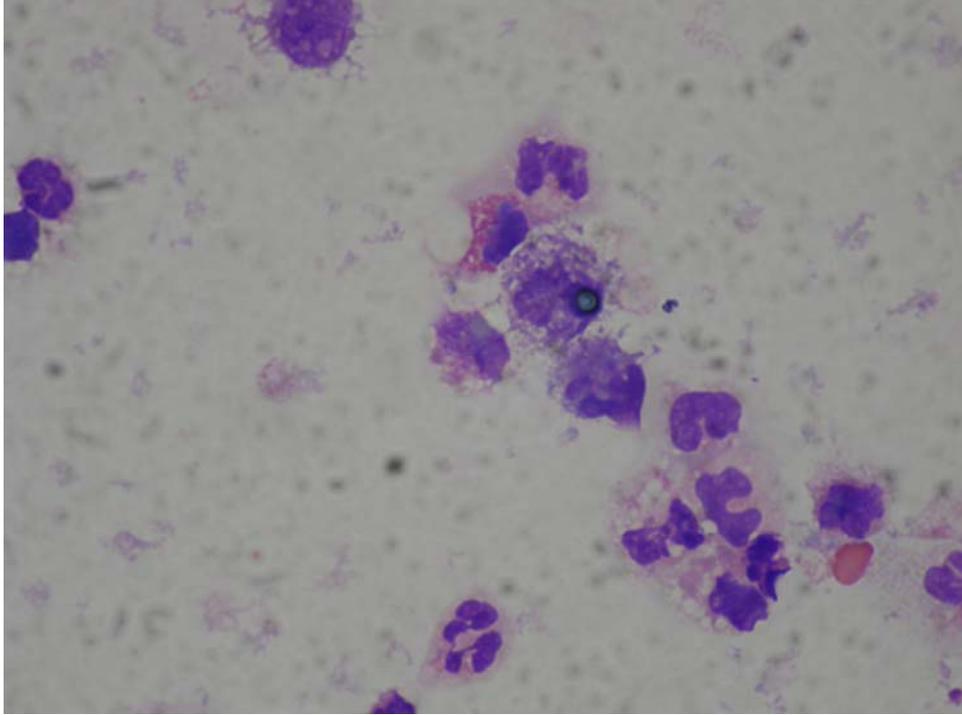


Figure 3: High power (x50 objective) view of BAL (Wright's stain)

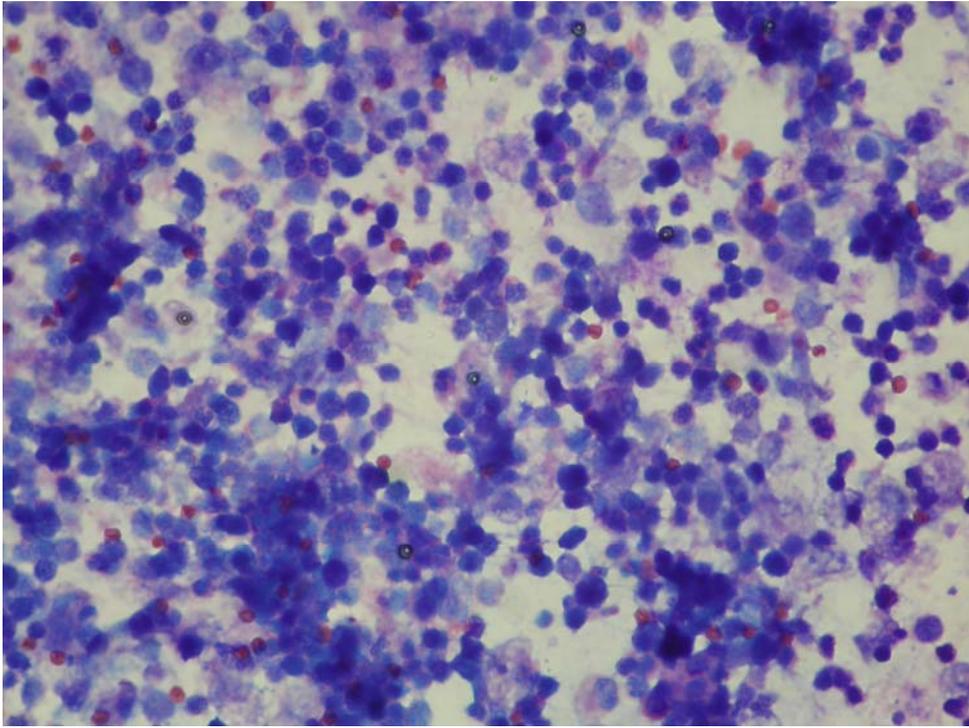


Figure 4: Low power (x10 objective) view of BAL (Wright's stain)
[to allow assessment of overall cellularity]