for three more days.

In low voltage injuries pulmonary oedema is the most life threatening complication in animals that survive the shock. Early aggressive removal of all devitalized tissues is the most important aspect of treatment (Remensnyder, 1990). Second intention healing of the lip injuries particularly those involving the commissure can limit opening of the mouth (Harvey, 1993). Topical antimicrobial agents are applied to control burn wound sepsis until debridment. Mefanide is the agent of choice because of its ability to penetrate deeply (Pope, 1985).

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Pulmonary anthracosis in large wild felids

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Anthracosis is the deposition of carbon or coal dust in the lungs. It is so frequent in city-reared animals especially in dogs, horses and mules used in and around coal mines (Runnells, 1960; Jubb & Kennedy, 1985; Jones & Hunt, 1983). The lungs and its lymph nodes are reservoirs for various dust particles; the dust is also found free in the bronchioles and alveoli, in macrophages in the alveoli and medulla of lymph nodes. Anthracosis condition has been reported in different domestic animals; few reports are available on wild animals. Hence the present communication records the occurrence of pulmonary anthracosis in lions and leopard of both sexes living at S.V. Zoo Park, Tirupati during the year 2005. However, these animals were brought from Kerala Circus.

Carcasses of lions (5) and leopard (1) of both sexes were aged about 16-25 years. On necropsy, examination of the lungs revealed generalized uniform distribution of minute dark spots on the sub pleural surface of lungs (Image 1[w]). Represented lung pieces were collected in 10% formalin and processed by routine conventional methods.

Histological studies of lung tissue revealed the deposition of minute black granules in clumps in alveolar walls and macrophages in inter alveolar connective tissue septa. The macrophages laden with carbon particles were also seen in the peribronchiolar area. The minute black particles proved negative for haemosiderin and melanin pigment on special staining. The gross and microscopic observations recorded in this observation are similar to Farrow (1975) and Gupta (1991).

The chances of felines at S.V. Zoo Park, getting exposed to coal particulars are remote since the zoo area is relatively free from such pollution. However, since these lions and leopards in the S.V. Zoo Park were brought from Kerala Circus, the possible justification of anthracosis in these animals could be due to the movement of circus animals to many industrial cities and inhalation of coal particles might have resulted in anthracosis.

[w] See Image 1[w] in the web supplement at www.zoosprint.org

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