

HISTORY & BACKGROUND

Dr. Maurice White started working on the CONSULTANT database in 1982 as a computer-based resource for maintaining information about disease entities in veterinary medicine. Given Dr. White's long standing interest in medical informatics, he worked with John Lewkowicz, director emeritus of the Veterinary Computing Service, in developing a computer program to support such a database. Initially offered to practicing veterinarians by dial-up access on a paid subscription basis, CONSULTANT became freely available on the World Wide Web in 1997.

CONTENT

The CONSULTANT database currently contains approximately 7,000 diagnoses/causes, about 500 signs/symptoms, more than 18,000 literature references, and over 3,000 Web links.

CONSULTANT covers the primary domestic animal species including:

- Dogs
- Cats
- Cattle
- Horses
- Sheep
- Goats
- Swine
- Birds & Poultry

CONSULTANT serves as a continually updated and dynamic online resource. Dr. White reviews and selects the published literature *daily*, frequently adds relevant, quality journal article references and Web links, and removes older or less useful citations. With his more than 25 years of experience in education, research, and clinical practice at Cornell University, Dr. White also regularly reviews and maintains the content of the diagnoses descriptions and clinical signs.

QUESTIONS & TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Questions concerning medical content, references, and Web links can be forwarded to Dr. Maurice E. White at mew6@cornell.edu

Technical Questions can be directed to Mary Stauble, Programmer/Analyst, Veterinary Medical Information Technology (VMIT) at mes2@cornell.edu

WEB LINKS TO ONLINE ARTICLES

CONSULTANT includes an increasing number of links to full-text journal articles, either freely available on the Web or as pay-per-view items from publisher's Web sites.

For example, see **LEISHMANIASIS, LEISHMANIOSIS, IN DOGS-ZOONOSIS** and click on [\[Web Reference\]](#) links. If you have access rights, the PDF's will be viewable immediately, or you can enter a credit card to see the papers.

DOCUMENT DELIVERY & REPRINTS

You may be able to obtain articles cited in CONSULTANT from a local university library or through interlibrary loan services of a public library. If not, there are some additional sources to consider, including:

- Contact a U.S., Canadian, or other veterinary library at <http://www.vmls.mlanet.org/vlindex.htm>
- Contact a commercial document supplier listed at <http://library.med.utah.edu/docsupp/>
- Use Loansome Doc delivery services available through PubMed at <http://pubmed.gov>

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Cornell University
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CONSULTANT

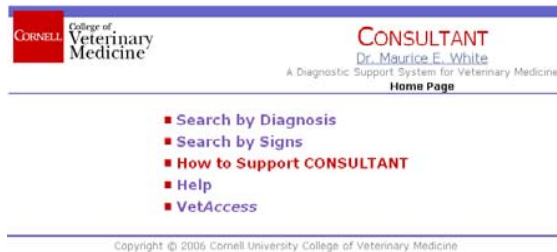
A Diagnostic Support System
for Veterinary Medicine

<http://www.vet.cornell.edu/consultant/consult.asp>

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CONSULTANT...

- Is **freely** accessible on the Web, 24 hours/day, 7 days/week.
- Intends to provide clinical diagnostic support for veterinarians and others interested in animal health.
- Serves as a filtered, expert-compiled information database for clinical decision making.
- Offers easy-to-use but powerful search capabilities.
- Can be searched by:
 - Diagnoses/causes
 - Clinical sign(s) or symptoms.
- Updated continually.
- Lists selected recent references to the veterinary literature, including increasing access to full-text, and links to relevant Web sites.



DISCLAIMER

CONSULTANT can not and should not be used to make a diagnosis. It is intended to support veterinarians' decision making and is not a substitute for clinical experience and judgment.

Veterinarians should use CONSULTANT in conjunction with textbooks, journal articles, diagnostic tests, colleague consults, and experience.

Animal owners should always consult their veterinarians for diagnostic evaluation and treatment options.

Home Diagnosis Help

LEPTOSPIROSIS IN HORSES- ZONOSIS

Description: Although many horses have titers, clinical signs of leptospirosis other than abortion from the sixth to tenth month of gestation are rarely recognized. Outbreaks or sporadic cases of a sometimes-fatal disease of foals was attributed to leptospirosis. Leptospirosis is a cause of periodic ophthalmia of horses. Renal dysfunction was associated with leptospirosis in horses.

Species: Equine

Signs: Abortion or weak newborns, Agalactia, Anorexia, Ataxia, Diarrhea, Dullness, Dysmetria, Dyspnea, Epistaxis, Fever, Generalized weakness, Hemoglobinuria or myoglobinuria, Icterus, Inability to stand, Increased respiratory rate, Pale, Proteinuria, Red or brown urine, Sudden death, Tachycardia

References: [Web Reference] PubMed

[Web Reference] U Wisconsin

Szeredi L, Haake DA. Immunohistochemical Identification and Pathologic Findings in Natural Cases of Equine Abortion Caused by Leptospiral Infection. Vet Pathol 2006; 43: 755-761 [Web Reference]

Leon A et al. Identification of pathogenic LEPTOSPIRA strains in tissues of a premature foal by use of polymerase chain reaction analysis. J Vet Diagn Invest 2006; 18: 218-221

Home Diagnosis Help

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Diagnosis / Cause —

Use this approach if you already know a disease diagnosis and want more current information about it.

1. Choose a species from the pull-down menu (default is ALL species)

2. Enter one or more letters or words of a diagnosis & click **Search**.

e.g., *dermatitis*
hyperthyroidism

Cornea [Searches both cornea and corneal]

j [Picks up any word beginning with one or more letters in the diagnosis title field]

neuro [No truncation symbol is needed]

paratuberculosis

anemia

terrier [For diseases of those breeds]

3. Click on any of the diagnoses listed to see the description, species affected, associated clinical signs, references and Web links.

The screenshot shows the CONSULTANT web interface. At the top, it says 'CONSULTANT Dr. Maurice E. White A Diagnostic Support System for Veterinary Medicine Diagnosis Page'. Below this are navigation buttons for 'Home' and 'Help'. A 'Species:' dropdown menu is set to 'All'. A 'Diagnosis Keyword:' text box contains 'corneal ulcer' and a 'Search' button is next to it. Below the search results, it says '5 Possible Diagnoses' and lists several conditions with radio buttons next to them: 'Chronic corneal epithelial defects, indolent ulcer', 'Corneal ulcer, erosion, ulcerative keratitis in horses', 'Corneal ulcers in birds', 'Secondary bacterial keratitis, corneal ulcer in ruminants', and 'Ulcerative canine or feline keratitis, corneal ulcer'. At the bottom, there are 'Home' and 'Help' buttons and a copyright notice: 'Copyright © 2006 Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine'.

Clinical Sign(s) / Symptoms —

Use this approach to determine what diagnoses have a certain combination of clinical signs.

1. Choose a species from the pull-down menu (default is ALL species)

2. Choose one or more clinical signs in several ways:

a. ONE-BY-ONE—Enter one or more words or letters of the first sign & click **Search**.

e.g., *pruritus*
anestrus
fever
tachycardia
myo [no truncation symbol is needed]
hyper
weight loss

CONSULTANT will display a list of standardized symptom phrases.

Mark one or more of the most relevant symptom phrases & click **Add to Signs**.

Repeat the process of adding additional signs until an appropriate number of clinical signs has been selected. (The more

signs you add the fewer possible diagnoses will be found.)

b. BY SIGN LIST—Click **Sign List**, choose a body system from the pull-down menu, and mark one or more signs.

Click **Add to Signs**.

c. AS STRINGS—Enter a string of complete words or fragments separated by semi-colons.

e.g., *weight loss;fever;thirst vom;fev;diarr;prur*

Chose additional signs from the lists if any related symptoms are displayed.

d. COMBINATION—Use combination of a, b, or c above.

3. Then, when all of the signs have been chosen, click **Search for Diagnoses** to view the list of diagnoses corresponding with that combination of clinical signs.

4. Click on any of the diagnoses listed to see the description, species affected, associated clinical signs, references and Web links.

CONSULTANT can be searched by:

- Diagnosis / Cause
- Clinical Sign(s) / Symptoms

The screenshot shows the CONSULTANT web interface. At the top, it says 'CONSULTANT Dr. Maurice E. White A Diagnostic Support System for Veterinary Medicine Sign Page'. Below this are navigation buttons for 'Home', 'Help', and 'Sign List'. A 'Species:' dropdown menu is set to 'All'. A 'Sign Keyword:' text box contains 'ataxia' and a 'Search' button is next to it. Below the search results, it says '61 Possible Diagnoses' and lists several conditions with checkboxes next to them: 'Diarrhea', 'Polydipsia, excessive fluid consumption, excessive thirst', 'Weight loss', and 'Ataxia, incoordination, staggering, falling'. At the bottom, there are 'Home' and 'Help' buttons and a copyright notice: 'Copyright © 2006 Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine'.