

CASE 1997-9

Submitted by: Dr.'s Brian Summers and Alexander de Lahunta, College of Veterinary Medicine, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York 14850 and Dr. John Speciale, Specialist Veterinary Practice, Rochester, New York, 14618.

Clinical history: This 2-year-old female domestic short haired cat was seen in mid summer for an episode of sneezing. Approximately 10 days later she presented febrile (103.8, normal 101), was reported to be inactive and to "stare at uninteresting objects" and was found to have dilated pupils. Some improvement was afforded by dexamethasone but the cat was returned 10 days later; she was dull and also had become propulsive, persistently walking in circles to the left. Examination at this time also revealed anisocoria with the left pupil smaller than the right. Prolonged corticosteroid therapy over approximately 8 weeks resulted in improvement and was tapered. However, the cat subsequently deteriorated and met its demise after a total clinical course of 4.5 months.

Examination of the brain at necropsy showed the left pyriform lobe to be small, depressed and slightly yellow. There was a significant depression of the left cerebrum in the area of distribution of the left middle cerebral artery (frontal/temporal). On transverse section, this extended deeply into the left internal capsule and caudate nucleus.

Material submitted: (a) H&E stained transverse section of the brain at the level of the septal nuclei (most sections) or an adjacent block, and (b) one kodachrome taken at the ventral midline of the section.

Points for discussion: Diagnosis, etiology and pathogenesis.