

CASE #10

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The specimen is from a three-year-old, spayed, female, domestic, short-haired cat. The animal was initially presented at the age of one year because of pelvic limb and truncal ataxia. A diagnosis of congenital cerebellar disease was made and the owner chose to maintain the animal even though the course of the disease was progressive. The animal was returned for euthanasia two years after initial presentation. At this time, she was tetraplegic but was, otherwise, alert and in good body condition. Periodic jerking movements of the head and neck were evident. The spinal cord segmental reflexes were exaggerated with a crossed extensor response in the pelvic limbs. Attitudinal-postural reactions evaluated by placing and hopping were absent. The eyes were fixed with a loss of tonic eye reactions and a loss of the ocular menace response. There was bowel and bladder incontinence.

NECROPSY FINDINGS: No gross evidence of lesions in viscera or nervous system. Microscopic lesions as shown in the section were found throughout the central nervous system.

MATERIAL SUBMITTED: Slide from medulla oblongata through the gracilis, cuneate and accessory cuneate nuclei, cervical and thoracic spinal cord stained with H & E.

Viscera completely normal

POINTS FOR DISCUSSION:

1. Diagnosis.
2. Is this similar to the human disease?