

DENTAL FISTULA IN BRADYPUS VARIEGATUS SCHINZ, 1825 (PILOSA, BRADYPODIDAE): CASE REPORT

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RESUMO

Bradypus variegatus is the only sloth species that occurs in the State of Pernambuco. These animals have 10 molariform teeth in the upper arch (small, without masticatory function) and eight in the lower arch (wider, in the shape of a chisel). Incisors and canines are absent. These teeth are shaped like hollow tubes, composed of orthodentin, filled with vasodentin and covered with a layer of cementum. Orthodentin is more resistant to wear and forms a raised edge around central concave region. Traumas and pathogenic microorganisms are common causes of diseases related to animal's oral health, promoting inflammation of soft tissues, abrasion, erosion and dental wear. Given the relevance of oral health in wild animals, this report is justified. The aim of this study was to report an occurrence of dental fistula and medical procedures in a *B. variegatus* attended in the Wild Animal Sorting Center - Cetas Tangara, Recife-PE, Brazil. In March 2020, environmental agencies sent to CETAS, a female, adult, 1.9 kg, who had an oral lesion. It was not informed how long ago the animal had such an injury, being the only information that it was rescued in Gameleira-PE. Upon examination, mandibular abscess and hemorrhage in the oral cavity were identified and the Tramadol Hydrochloride protocol (4mg/kg/VO/SID/4 days) was instituted; Ketoprofen (1mg/kg/VO/SID/4 days); Enrofloxacin 10% (3mg/kg/IM/7 days); cleaning the lesion with 0.12% chlorhexidine; abscess drainage and antibiotic ointment for topical treatment in fistulated chin area. Associated with pharmacological therapy, the animal was placed in an enclosure and fed with *Cecropia* sp. ad libitum. In the following month, apparent improvement of the lesion was observed. However, a local edema was observed from which purulent secretion and food remains were drained. Radiographs of the skull were performed, where a decrease in bone density was observed in vasodentin region of the most distal tooth and in the mandibular bone density from fistulous path. Extraction of affected tooth was performed, including curettage of dental socket and the fistulous path. For post-surgical, Tramadol Hydrochloride protocol (4mg/kg/IM/SID/3 days) was instituted; Meloxicam 0.2% (0.3mg/kg/IM/SID/4 days); Clindamycin (3mg/kg/IM/5 days); cleaning the wound with 0.12% Chlorhexidine (BID/15 days); finished with antibiotic ointment. In June, the animal died. Diseases of the digestive system of bradypodids are more common in wild animals medicine literature, whereas reports of dental disorders are not common. In this report, a lack of knowledge of injuries causes (traumas such as falling, mistreatment, inadequate handling) may have antagonically influenced control of the

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infection. As well as other factors, such as low immunity and stress, may have caused the animal's death, even after almost a month of the surgical procedure. Thus, it was concluded that medical procedures were able to temporarily restore the animal's well-being, reducing the inflammatory process; However, it was not enough to revert the systemic, possibly chronic, condition generated by infection.

PALAVRAS-CHAVE: Atlantic forest, Brown-throated sloth, Teeth, Wild animals sorting center, Xenarthrans.