

BOVINE INTERDIGITAL NECROBACILLOSIS (FOUL IN THE FOOT, FOOT ROT)

The Organism

- *Fusobacterium necrophorum*
- common inhabitant of the alimentary of animals
- Gram-negative bacteria
- obligate anaerobe
- rod-shaped

Epidemiology

- All ages susceptible
- Infected feet are source of infection
- Transmission highest where conditions are wet underfoot and in wet humid seasons

Clinical Signs

- Severe foot lameness appears suddenly, usually in one limb only and may be accompanied by a moderate systemic reaction with a fever
- temporary depression of milk
- bulls may show temporary infertility.
- The animal puts little weight on the leg
- Swelling of the coronet
- The typical lesion occurs in the skin at the top of the interdigital
- Pus is never present in large amounts but the edges of the fissure are covered with necrotic material and the lesion has a characteristic odor.
- complications is also higher if treatment is delayed and some animals may have to be destroyed because of local involvement of joints and tendon sheaths.

Post Mortem Lesions

- Necropsy examinations are rarely carried out in cases of foot rot

Clinical Diagnosis

- Case history
- Clinical sign

Differential Diagnosis

- FMD
- Rumenal Acidosis
- Vesicular stomatitis
- traumatic injury

TREATMENT

- Parenteral administration of antibiotics or sulfonamides and local treatment of the foot lesion are necessary for best results. Immediate treatment as soon as possible after the onset of swelling and lameness will give excellent recovery in 2-4 d.
- **Antimicrobials**
 - Ceftiofur, 1-2 mg/kg (BW) 1M, or procaine penicillin G, 22 000 iu/kg BW 1M twice daily, or once daily for three consecutive days are effective
- Local treatment
 1. The foot is scrubbed, all necrotic tissue curetted away and a local dressing applied under a pad or bandage.
 2. antibacterial, and preferably astringent, dressing appears to be satisfactory.
 3. A wet pack of 5% copper sulfate solution is cheap and effective.
 4. antibacterial ointment preparation may be applied and secured with a bandage, which may be left on for several days.

Prevention and Control

- Prevention of foot injuries the Lanes and bedding should be kept clean and dry.
- Footbaths by Provision of a footbath containing a 5-10% solution of formaldehyde or copper sulfate,
- Antibacterial by Feeding chlortetracycline to feedlot cattle 500 mg/head/d for 28 d
- Vaccination