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Letter to the Editor

Colic and Gastric Rupture in a Captive Zebra (*Equus quagga*)

Dear Editor,

Colic is one of the most common problems in equine practice but also affects other equids. On the other hand, causes of colic in zebra is not well known. A six years old zebra (*Equus quagga*), kept in captive conditions, was brought to the postmortem room of the "Las Delicias" Zoological, Maracay, Aragua State, Venezuela. Anamnesis revealed a history of colic and sudden death. The necropsy was performed and samples of tissues were collected. Cyanotic mucosa (Fig. 1) and severe abdominal distension was noted. During the abdominal inspection we observed dilation of the stomach and rupture of the wall along the great curvature. Torsion of small intestine (jejunum segment) was also present. The histological sections showed coagulation necrosis of epithelial cells in both, glandular and squamous portions of the gastric wall and acute erosive gastritis. In summary, the gastric rupture and consequent peritonitis, enterotoxic shock and cardio-respiratory collapse were responsible for the death of the animal. Captive conditions are supposed to be a practice that predispose to the colic also for zebras.



Figure 1: Cyanotic mucosa of Zebra died in consequence of colic, gastric rupture and enterotoxic shock.

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