

## MENINGOENCEPHALITIS CAUSED BY *Cryptococcus neoformans* IN A DOG – CASE REPORT

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Cryptococcosis is an opportunistic systemic fungal infection caused by *Cryptococcus neoformans*, a saprophytic, yeast-like organism. In terms of epidemiology, pigeons are thought to be most important vector of *C. neoformans*. In the dog the infection most commonly occurs via inhalation of yeast organisms. After inhalation, nasal, paranasal sinuses or pulmonary granulomas form. Approximately 65% of dogs infected have CNS involvement because direct extension through the cribriform plate to the CNS is very common. The prognosis is guarded for patients with SNC involvement. The objective of this work is to report a case admitted to the UFPR Animal Hospital. The patient in question was a female Boxer, 10 years old, named Meggie, weighting 25 kg, presenting dyspnea and mental depression. After general clinical examination, major clinical findings were upper airway stridor, nasal discharge and sneezing. On neurologic evaluation, the patient presented ataxia, proprioceptive deficits in all four limbs, neck pain and often assumed head pressing and star gazing positions. Clinical laboratory data showed mild anemia, neutrophilia with mild left shift, and very mild lymphocytosis as well. Cerebrospinal fluid analysis showed round organisms compatible with *C. neoformans*. The clinical diagnosis was *C. neoformans* infection of the respiratory system extending to the CNS and causing meningoencephalitis. The patient was treated with itraconazole 10mg/kg/PO SID. After an initial improvement of the clinical signs the patient died suddenly after 10 days. This case is being reported to alert Brazilian clinicians to this possibility of neurologic diagnosis in our country.