

Computed tomographic identification of a wooden nasal foreign body in a dog

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Signalment & History: A five-year-old, intact female, body weight 3.0 kg Maltese was referred for stertorous sneezing and nasal hemorrhage of a few days' duration. According to the owner, the dog had a persistent coughing and respiratory distress.

Results: Nasal computed tomography (CT) was performed. CT demonstrated moderate to severe soft tissue distribution within the nasal cavity with mild bony destruction of the right palatine bone and orbital lamina with concurrent inhomogeneous changes of the right retrobulbar region. Initially, nasal neoplasia was suspected based on CT findings. Surgical exploration and biopsy were carried out for gross findings and histologic confirmation of the nasal lesion. Surprisingly, two cotton swabs were found out at the nasal cavity. Two linear hyperattenuated images through the nasal passages were shown on re-evaluating reformatted images.

Clinical relevance: The imaging appearance of foreign bodies is variable and difficult to judge. In this case, CT examination of the nasal foreign body provides detail information regarding identification of foreign body, the extent and characteristics of the lesion using three-dimensional CT reformatting and multiple window setting.

Key words: foreign body, nasal cavity, computed tomography, dog

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