



## TREATMENT OF BLADDER DIVERTICULUM AND ASCITES IN A FEMALE SNOW LEOPARD

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The female snow leopard, Andra (Studbook Reg. No. Zurich 2) arrived at the Zurich Zoo on November 2, 1974, from U.D.S.S.R. as a wild-caught animal. Up to 1986 she had given birth to eight litters with seventeen youngsters by the male, Walo (Studbook Reg. No. Helsinki 8), twelve of which were either stillborn or died within the first year of age. Five offspring are still alive.

Andra, Walo and Arga (Studbook Reg. No. Zurich 1) lived for a short time in the old carnivore house but were transferred to the new snow leopard exhibit. In this new building, we have had an endemic *Pasteurella multocida* infection, which has caused pneumonia and enteritis from time to time in newborn animals, as we reported at the symposium in 1981.

Beginning thirty days after birth we take the daily weight of the youngsters, and if they are losing weight over a period of more than two days antibiotics and inhalation therapy are started immediately.

In July 1984 the flanks, hindquarters, and the tail of Andra became wet from urine. Urinating seemed to be painful and prolonged. Her urine contained blood and crystals of struvite and urate. The cat was immobilized with Ketamine-hydrochloride, catheterized and the urine examined bacteriologically. We found +++ staphylococcus and a sensitivity test was made. The contrast X-ray examination revealed a bladder diverticulum in the area of the urachus (Figure 1). Andra showed signs of illness and stopped eating. Under Eusaprim® (Trimetoprim-sulfa-combination) medication her general condition got better very soon. At the end of 1984 the bladder infection showed up again and was treated in the same manner.

In October 1985 we observed a neoplasm in the upper eyelid which was surgically removed. It was diagnosed as a squamous cell carcinoma. In May 1986 Andra showed problems again in urinating. The whole hindquarters became wet and sometimes blood was found in the urinalysis. During the following time the abdomen became swollen and it looked like ascites. Andra became rather inactive.

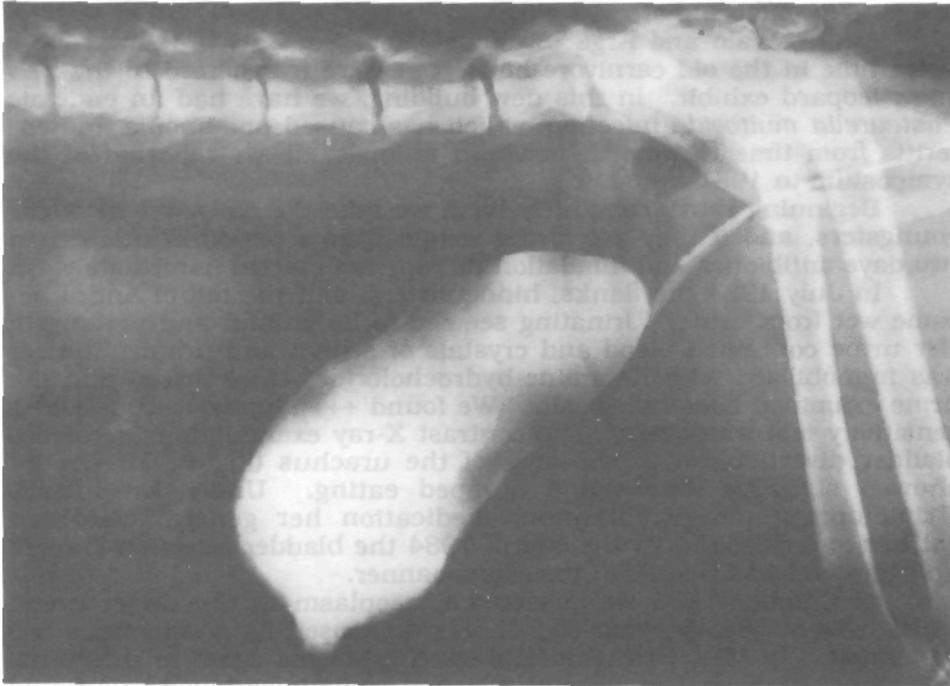
stopped jumping and the general conditions turned worse even under ampicillin medication.

Because of her pregnancy we did not want to sedate her. On July 4, 1986, she gave birth to a male cub. The birth was without any complications, but took about four hours and was observed with infrared television cameras. Increasing difficulties in breathing, an enlarged abdomen from the ascites and the inactivity made another immobilization necessary.

On September 9 and October 11, we immobilized Andra again, using 12 mg Ketamine-hydrochloride per kg of body weight. We punctured the abdominal cavity and extracted transudate fluids. The ECG looked normal, but the blood examinations showed a higher white blood count with left shifting. After removing the fluids from the abdominal cavity the liver tests gave better results.

For quite **awhile** blood urea nitrogen and creatinin levels were elevated, but in spite of this Andra recovered without problems from the anaesthesia. Tests for feline infectious peritonitis (FIP) **and feline leukemia (FELV)** were negative.

At this moment the general condition of Andra is even better.



**FIGURE 1. Radiograph of female snow leopard with contrast media filling the urinary bladder and demonstrating the diverticulum at the ventral portion of the bladder.**