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ADRENAL DISEASE IN FERRETS

Ruth L. Heller, D.V.M.

Adrenal disease in ferrets is a common syndrome seen in America, more frequently in ferrets of American bloodlines, but also in those of foreign descent. It is most common in ferrets of middle age (three to seven years) but has been diagnosed in ferrets under a year and over ten years of age. The most common cause is hyperplasia (excessive growth) of the adrenal gland(s), but it can also be caused by tumors, both malignant and benign. Metastasis (spread outside of the immediate area) is uncommon, but some tumors can be very invasive locally, and may grow into the blood vessels or internal organs near the tumor's origin.

Full article can be found at http://www.ferret.org/pdfs/health/Adrenal_Disease.pdf

ADRENAL DISEASE (HYPERADRENOCORTICISM)

Rene C. Gandolfi, DVM, DIPL. ABVP and Charles A. Weiss, DVM

Adrenal Disease is one of the most common ferret conditions seen in clinical practice. The disease is a result of a tumor or hyperplasia (overgrowth) affecting one or both adrenal glands. Although this condition can occur at any age, it is most common in ferrets over three years old. There are many theories as to the cause of this condition (genetic, environmental, diet, early reproductive sterilization); however, the underlying etiology is still unknown. Increasing evidence points both to early neuter and abnormal/artificial light cycles.

Full article can be found at
http://www.ferret.org/pdfs/health/Adrenal_Disease_Comprehensive_with_Medical_Therapy.pdf

CRYOSURGERY OF THE ADRENAL GLAND IN THE FERRET

Charles A. Weiss, DVM and Anne K. G. Bazilwich, DVM

Adrenal Disease, consisting of adrenal gland tumors and adrenal gland hyperplasia, is a chronic, debilitating disease and one of the most common clinical conditions in the domestic ferret. Abnormal adrenal glands produce an excess of androgens and estrogens, which cause significant changes in the ferret's skin, hair, reproductive organs, and emotional well-being. The treatment of choice for ferrets with adrenal disease is surgical removal of the affected adrenal gland. Surgical removal of the right adrenal gland can be challenging due to its close proximity to the caudal vena cava. The diseased right adrenal gland frequently extends under the vena cava, which makes removal of the gland a meticulous, technically difficult procedure.

Full article can be found at http://www.ferret.org/pdfs/health/Adrenal_Disease_Cryosurgery.pdf

ADRENAL DISEASE IN FERRETS (2013 Update)

Renee Gandolfi, DVM, ABVP Dipl.

Adrenal Disease (AD) is one of the most common ferret medical conditions seen in clinical practice in the United States. The disease is a result of a tumor or hyperplasia (overgrowth) affecting one or both adrenal glands. Although this condition can occur at any age, it is most often seen in ferrets over three years of age. There are many theories as to the cause of this condition, (genetic, environmental, diet, and early reproductive sterilization); however, a definitive underlying etiology is still unknown. Increasing evidence points both to early neuter and abnormal/artificial light cycles. In the case of neuter, the sterilization procedure removes the source of sex hormones (estrogens and testosterone), which in turn removes the natural feedback inhibition of the continuous stimulation from the pituitary gland on the adrenal glands, which subsequently produce an excess of sex hormones.

Full article can be found at <http://www.ferret.org/pdfs/health/2013Adrenal.pdf>
