CONSULTANT
A Diagnostic Support System for Veterinary Medicine

http://www.vet.cornell.edu/consultant/Consult.asp

Created and maintained by
Maurice E. White, D.V.M.
Professor, Dept. of Population Medicine and Diagnostic Sciences
College of Veterinary Medicine
Cornell University
Ithaca, New York 14853-6401
E-mail: mew6@cornell.edu

HISTORY & BACKGROUND
Dr. Maurice “Pete” White started working on the CONSULTANT database in 1982 as a computer-based resource for maintaining information about disease entities in veterinary medicine. Given Dr. White’s long standing interest in medical informatics, he worked with John Lewkowicz, director emeritus of the Veterinary Computing Service, in developing a computer program to support such a database. Initially offered to practicing veterinarians by dial-up access on a paid subscription basis, CONSULTANT became freely available on the World Wide Web in 1997.

CONTENT
The CONSULTANT database currently contains approximately 7,000 diagnoses/causes, about 500 signs/symptoms, more than 18,000 literature references, and over 3,000 Web links.

CONSULTANT covers the primary domestic animal species including:
- Dogs
- Cats
- Cattle
- Horses
- Sheep
- Goats
- Swine
- Birds & Poultry

CONSULTANT serves as a continually updated and dynamic online resource. Dr. White reviews and selects the published literature daily, frequently adds relevant, quality journal article references and Web links, and removes older or less useful citations. With his nearly 30 years of experience in education, research, and clinical practice at Cornell University, Dr. White also regularly reviews and maintains the content of the diagnoses descriptions and clinical signs.

NEW & NOTEWORTHY
A new feature begun in 2010, New & Note-worthy (N&N) is a rolling list of important articles from the veterinary literature on new disorders or with content of special interest. Check this feature on a regular basis for the latest developments.

QUESTIONS & TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE
Questions concerning medical content, references, and Web links can be forwarded to Dr. Maurice E. White at mew6@cornell.edu

DISCLAIMER
CONSULTANT can not and should not be used to make a diagnosis. It is intended to support veterinarians’ decision making and is not a substitute for clinical experience and judgment.

Veterinarians should use CONSULTANT in conjunction with textbooks, journal articles, diagnostic tests, colleague consults, and experience.

Animal owners should always consult their veterinarians for diagnostic evaluation and treatment options.

WEB LINKS TO ONLINE ARTICLES
CONSULTANT includes an increasing number of links to full-text journal articles, either freely available on the Web or as pay-view items from publisher’s Web sites.

For example, see LEISHMANIASIS, LEISHMANIOSIS, IN DOGS-ZOONOSIS and click on [Web Reference] links. If you have access rights, the PDF’s will be viewable immediately, or you can enter a credit card to see the papers.

DOCUMENT DELIVERY & REPRINTS
You may be able to obtain articles cited in CONSULTANT from a local university library through interlibrary loan services of a public library. If not, there are some additional sources to consider, including:
- Contact a U.S., Canadian, or other veterinary library at http://www.vmls.mlanet.org/viindex.htm
- Contact a commercial document supplier listed at http://library.med.utah.edu/docsupp/
- Use Loansome Doc delivery services available through PubMed at http://pubmed.gov

Compiled by Susanne Whitaker (skw2@cornell.edu)
with ann viera (annviera@ukr.edu)

Revised April 2010
Diagnosis / Cause —
Use this approach if you already know a disease diagnosis and want more current information about it.

1. Choose a species from the pull-down menu. (default is ALL species)
2. Enter one or more letters or words of a diagnosis & click Search.
   e.g., dermatitis
hyperthyroidism
cornea [Searches both cornea and corneal]
pruritis
anestrus
fever
tachycardia
myo [no truncation symbol is needed]
hyper
weight loss
CONSULTANT will display a list of standardized symptom phrases.
Mark one or more of the most relevant symptom phrases & click Add to Signs.
Repeat the process of adding additional signs until an appropriate number of clinical signs has been selected. (The more signs you add the fewer possible diagnoses will be found.)

b. BY SIGN LIST—Click Sign List, choose a body system from the pull-down menu, and mark one or more signs.

Click Add to Signs.

C. AS STRINGS—Enter a string of complete words or fragments separated by semi-colons.
   e.g., weight loss;fever;thirst;vom;diarr;prur
Chose additional signs from the lists if any related symptoms are displayed.
d. COMBINATION—Use combination of a, b, or c above.

3. Then, when all of the signs have been chosen, click Search for Diagnoses to view the list of diagnoses corresponding with that combination of clinical signs.

4. Click on any of the diagnoses listed to see the description, species affected, associated clinical signs, references and Web links.

Clinical Sign(s) / Symptoms —
Use this approach to determine What diagnoses have a certain Combination of clinical signs.

1. Choose a species from the pull-down menu. (default is ALL species)
2. Choose one or more clinical signs in several ways:

A. ONE-BY-ONE — Enter one or more words or letters of the first sign & click Search.
   e.g.,
pruritis
anestrus
fever
tachycardia
myo [no truncation symbol is needed]
hyper
weight loss
CONSULTANT will display a list of standardized symptom phrases.
Mark one or more of the most relevant symptom phrases & click Add to Signs.
Repeat the process of adding additional signs until an appropriate number of clinical signs has been selected. (The more signs you add the fewer possible diagnoses will be found.)

b. BY SIGN LIST—Click Sign List, choose a body system from the pull-down menu, and mark one or more signs.

Click Add to Signs.

C. AS STRINGS—Enter a string of complete words or fragments separated by semi-colons.
   e.g., weight loss;fever;thirst;vom;diarr;prur
Chose additional signs from the lists if any related symptoms are displayed.
d. COMBINATION—Use combination of a, b, or c above.

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