

POSTER ABSTRACTS

Veterinary Pathology: Exotic, wildlife & zoo animals

202 | HEALED BROKEN HEART - ILLEGAL HUNTING OF A BARBARY FALCON (*FALCO PEREGRINUS PELEGRINOIDES*)

L. Marrero-Ponce¹, A. Fernández¹, C. Rivero-Herrera¹, J. Navarro-Sarmiento¹, R. Grandía Guzmán¹, C. Manuel Suárez-Santana¹, Ó. Quesada-Canales¹

¹ *Instituto Universitario de Sanidad Animal y Seguridad Alimentaria (IUSA), ULPGC, Arucas, Spain*

Background

Hunting of raptors is forbidden in many countries, Spain included. Despite this prohibition, illegal shooting is currently considered an important conservation problem for this kind of avian species.

Materials & Methods

One adult specimen of Barbary falcon (*Falco peregrinus pelegrinoides*), an endangered species, was subjected to a complete standardized necropsy. Tissue samples were fixed in 4% buffered formalin, routinely processed, and stained with HE. Masson's trichrome stain of heart tissue was also performed.

Results

Complete subcutaneous and visceral fat depletion and severe pectoral muscle atrophy were observed. Comminute closed fractures were present in both tibiotarsus bones. On the right leg, two lead pellet were present in addition to a focally extensive subacute bruise. On the left leg, a deformed lead pellet was extracted adjacent to an area of dense connective tissue that surrounded the fracture. One last pellet was lodged in the visceral surface of the right ventricle wall. It was surrounded by a thin layer of connective tissue and few epithelioid macrophages. Scar tissue was seen in the parietal side of the right ventricle. By Masson's trichrome stain a path of fibrous tissue from the parietal plane to the visceral one, passing through the interventricular septum, was demonstrated. No lesions were observed in other tissues.

Conclusion

The bird survived afterward a shooting event, which did not lead directly to death. Animal capability of movement and hunting was impaired due to gunshot lesions, leading to a probable death by inanition.