ACRAL LICK DERMATITIS IN A LABRADOR DOG

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A four and a half year old Labrador intact male dog was presented to the Small animal Medicine Dermatology Unit of Madras Veterinary College Teaching Hospital with the complaint of development of a ulcerated area on the right fore leg due to persistent licking since one year and was previously treated with topical and systemic antibiotics but recurrence was noticed. The animal was having a good temperament and had started exhibiting the behavior since the death of another dog of the house. The behavior did not affect the normal activities of the dog and was exhibited when the dog was left alone and was disrupted when the owner interfered. On physical examination the vital parameters were within the normal physiological limits. The animal was subjected to dermatological examination, the skin scraping was negative and the impression smear for cytological studies revealed neutrophilic collection without any bacteria or yeast organisms. The bacteriological culture of the deep tissue obtained by biopsy showed the presence of E.coli. Enrofloxacin and cephotaxime were found to be the most sensitive antibiotics by the antibiogram conducted. The histopathological studies revealed hyperkeratosis of the epidermis with rete ridge formation, dermal fibrosis, hyperplasia of the glands along with perifollicular and diffuse dermal neutrophilic infiltration. Based on the history and clinical examination the condition was diagnosed to be acral lick dermatitis of psychogenic origin and was treated with fluoxetine @1mg/kg bodyweight once daily and enrofloxacin @5mg/kg body weight once daily for a period of six weeks and the animal showed a reduction in the licking behavior along with the healing of the wound.