

## CASE REPORT: TREATMENT OF LIVER DISEASE RELATED TO NUTRITIONAL MANAGEMENT ERROR IN FEMALE RED-FOOTED TORTOISE (CHELONOIDIS CARBONARIA)

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**JUNIOR; Luiz Carlos Fabio Junior <sup>1</sup>, HORTA; Igor Renato dos Santos <sup>2</sup>, ZANDONADI; Sissi Tess <sup>3</sup>, CAVALETTI; Fernando Cardoso <sup>4</sup>**

### RESUMO

Diseases linked to nutritional factors in reptiles are of great importance in the clinical series of unconventional pets. The balanced nutritional management for the food requirements of each species is of great importance for the maintenance of reptiles in captivity. We present here a case report of a female red-footed tortoise, 4.5kg, approximately 20 years old, who was treated by *Fábio Veterinary Consultancy* with a liver disease related to nutritional management error. In the anamnesis, the person responsible for the animal reported that he had already been with the animal for consultation with another veterinary professional, being that his chief complaint was that the animal presented increased volumes of soft tissue (edema), anorexia and prostration. Coelomic cavity radiography and treatment with PO-ketoprofen every 48 hours for 10 days were performed by the previous professional responsible for the case. The radiography showed an increase in the volume of the ventral portion of the coelomic cavity, with a homogeneous appearance, promoting the dorsal displacement of the lung lobes and the animal showed clinical evolution after treatment, but shortly afterwards the clinical manifestations returned to the initial state, when the responsible sought service of Fábio Veterinary Consultancy where a new anamnesis was carried out, it was reported that about 95% of the animal's diet was based on fruits. The information from the consultation raised the hypothesis of liver disease. A new treatment was prescribed with Meloxicam 0.3mg/Kg-PO-SID 7 days and a hemogram, renal and liver function exams, and tomography of the Celomatic cavity were performed. The blood count showed anemia, lymphopenia, and platelet aggregates, unchanged renal function and a considerable increase in lactic dehydrogenase (LDH) in liver function. The tomography showed an enlarged liver, with a little reduced density and a generalized heterogeneous parenchyma, showing some hypo-attenuating areas/nodules interspersed with the parenchyma (Hepatitis). Splenomegaly secondary to the inflammatory process. Increase in soft tissues accompanied by blurring of adipose tissue in the coelomic cavity at the height of the thoracic and pelvic limbs and in the caudal portion of the coelom, indicating coelomic effusion. After the results of the exams, a therapeutic protocol for liver disease was

<sup>1</sup> Médico Veterinário da Fábio Consultoria Veterinária, luiz.junior@famesp.com.br

<sup>2</sup> Médico veterinário pós-graduando em clínica de animais silvestres (IBRA), renatoigor90@gmail.com

<sup>3</sup> Colaboradora Científica da Fábio Consultoria Veterinária, sissitesszand@gmail.com

<sup>4</sup> Médico Veterinário do Instituto Veterinário de Imagem (IVI VET), fercavaletti@yahoo.com.br

instituted, with a change in nutritional management with the reduction of fruit intake and diet adjustment according to the dietary requirements of the species, administration of Lactulose 0.5ml/Kg -PO-SID-7 days, Silymarin 185mg manipulated -PO-SID-21 days and Hemolitan Pet - 4 drops -PO- SID-10 days. During drug administration, good clinical development was reported, and at the end of treatment and change in feeding management, the animal presented clinical resolution of the situation, showing good general condition, normophagia, eupnea, absence of edema. A new liver function and blood count examinations were requested, the values presented were already within the reference values and clinically the animal is in good condition. The presented case demonstrates the importance of using complementary exams for the diagnosis of liver diseases in chelonians, the tomography technique being a technique of great value despite the difficulty of access to this type of complementary exam.

**PALAVRAS-CHAVE:** Chelonians, Hepatitis, Nutrition, Reptiles