

CASE REPORT OF DONKEYS AND HORSES BURNED ON THE VALPARAISO FIRE, CHILE

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Introduction: This is a description of the rescue of burned animals on the worst Wildland Urban Interphase fire ever registered in Valparaiso, all through the days 12 th to 16 th of the month of april, 2014, which left 11,000 people affected, and a total of 2900 burnt down houses all through the affected 1.144 ha. Valparaíso is located in Chile's V region and is World Heritage Site by the UNESCO since 2003. Their peculiar topography is caracterized by 45 hills or cerros, upon which the city was buildt. During the fire, 177 large animals were affected (70 horses, 33 donkeys, 29 goats, 11 pigs, 2 cows and 1 sheep). The horses and donkeys that were attended had several degree of burns, respiratory distress and lameness. 2 horses died. The burns caused by direct exposition to the flames are called of a thermal type and can be classified accordingly to the extension of affected skin and by the depth of the layers of skin it reaches. Description of cases: 4 donkeys were hospitalized on Viña del Mar University, all their physiological constant were abnormal, they also presented with blepharospasm, epiphora, airway distress and corneal ulcer (Fig. 3). Case 1: Male 150 kg, 7 years old, with 50% of 2nd degree burns. Case 2: Female 120 kg, 15 years old, 30% of 2nd and 20% of 3rd degree burns. Case 3: Female 135 kg 12 years, with 5% of 1st degree burns. Case 4: Male 105 kg, 5 years old, with 5% 1st degree burns. Hemogram where performed to every case. Treatment: Cold water washes were performed on the first hours, triclosan 1% washes and IV fluids (ringer lactate) were administered. There was also used Equine Haler (Albuterol 0,2-0,8 mcg/kg q12h and ipatropium 2-3 mcg/kg q6h)(Fig. 4). Sedation with xylazine 10% (0,5 mg/Kg) and butorphanol (0,01 mg/Kg IV) was administrated for the treatment of burn injuries with Matico (Piper aduncum), bee honey, aloe vera and paraffin patches. Tramadol 5% (2 mg/kg), Flunixin meglumine (1,1mg/kg), Dexamethasone (4-0,01 mg/kg IV), Diazepam (0,1 mg/kg) were used as needed. Antibiotics: Trimethoprim-sulfadiazine, Penicillin G procaine+Streptomycin. Atropine 1% was used for posterior synechia and ciprofloxacin+chondroitin sulfate q6h and artificial tears. Also Omeprazole, vitamin C and E, anabolics, mineral oil (200cc/day) were administrated. The animals where discharged on the 5th of June (Fig. 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10). Discussion and conclusion: The affected animals must be examined to establish the full extent and type of the burn, also establish whether any secondary metabolic consequences from the burn will occur. The extent of the burns is classified as the percentage of the whole area that is involved in the burn ("Wallace Rule of Nines"). The coordination in these emergencies is crucial. It is mentioned that a very important empiric factor used all through the period of help and treatment was the constant company, care and love provided to each animal, which it is not described in Equus asinus, but mentioned in human cases from which it was extrapolated, in the concept of animal wellbeing (Fig.11).











Fig. 1: fire wildland urban interphase Fig. 2: Day 0 of fire

Fig. 3: Uveitis and corneal ulcer. Fig.4: Day 3, treatment with equine haler Fig. 5: Day 5 in the clinic.

Fig. 6: Day 12 in the clinic.



Fig. 7: Day 16 in the clinic.



Fig. 8: Day 20 in the clinic

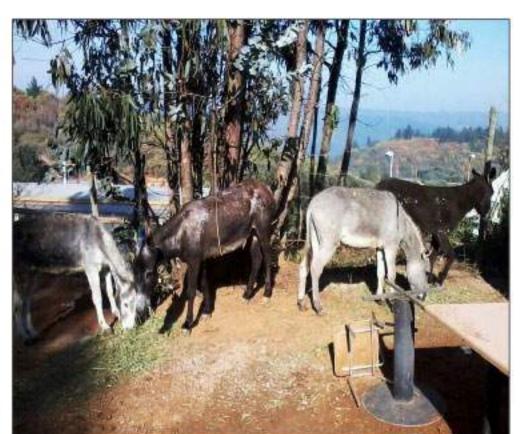


Fig. 9: Day 42 in the clinic



Fig. 10: Day 49 last day in the clinic.



Fig. 11: Students giving love to the donkeys