

Dear Ms Polydor,

As I mentioned to you earlier, Amos has been stable, based on good appetite (he especially likes grazing outside on our new grass), passing normal manure and he has remained afebrile. His respiratory rate has also been stable, but has remained abnormal as it is consistently increased (24-28 breaths per minute) and he continues to have a increased respiratory effort.

Based on both lung radiographs (x-rays) and ultrasonography, Amos has severe pneumonia, in both lungs, in the cranioventral (towards the front and down) lung lobes. This is specially severe in the right lung, where he is currently forming a large abscess. Unfortunately, this will take a long time to resolve and during this time he will need to remain on broad spectrum antibiotics. In time (weeks to months) he may need an incision through the thoracic wall (and possibly a partial rib resection), to drain the abscess and remove walled off parts of the infected lung that may die.

On the transtracheal wash fluid, we have cultured *Trueperella pyogenes*, *E. coli* and 3 types of anaerobic bacteria. The *E.coli* and anaerobic bacteria are sensitive to the antimicrobials he is receiving (metronidazole and enrofloxacin). The *Trueperella* sp. is a bacteria that is normally sensitive to ceftiofur and other similar antibiotics, however, since he has grown this organism in the face of being on 6 weeks of treatment with ceftiofur it is likely that this bacteria has become resistant. In addition, the body is trying to wall off the infected lung which makes it more difficult for the antibiotics to effectively reach the infected tissue. Therefore, we have started Amos on a nebulized form of ceftiofur to get higher drug concentrations directly into the lung (through him breathing it in) and will likely have to add a third systemic antibiotic to his current regimen pending sensitivity results for the *Trueperella* sp.

At this point the prognosis for complete recovery is poor to fair as the growth of anaerobes is generally associated with a worse prognosis. Taking all these things into consideration, it is very possible that you will be spending a total of \$10,000 or more, to achieve complete recovery and the treatment period may take months (4 to 6 months, or longer).

Best regards,

Tiago Afonso

Tiago Afonso, DVM  
Large Animal Internal Medicine Resident  
PhD student, Large Animal Medicine  
College of Veterinary Medicine  
University of Georgia  
2200 College Station Road  
Athens, GA 30602