

## ANAEMIA IN AN ALPACA

Contributors: Patricia Crosse<sup>1</sup>, Kate English<sup>1</sup>, Claire Whitehead<sup>1</sup>, Roger Ayling<sup>2</sup>, Balazs Szladovits<sup>1</sup>, and Laia Solano-Gallego<sup>1</sup>.

<sup>1</sup>Royal Veterinary College, University of London, UK. <sup>2</sup>Mycoplasma Group, Department of Statutory and Exotic Bacterial Diseases, VLA (Weybridge), Surrey.

Signalment: A 3-year-old, 51kg, male entire alpaca from the South East of England.

History: The alpaca called Patriot presented to the Large Animal Practice at the Royal Veterinary College with a history of progressive weight loss, lethargy, scrotal swelling, pale mucous membranes, and mild regenerative anaemia.

Clinical Examination: Heart rate, respiratory rate and temperature were within normal limits. Abnormalities were pale mucus membranes and scrotal enlargement. Testicular palpation did not reveal any atypia.

On day one of hospitalization a CBC indicated moderate regenerative anaemia (PCV 15.1%; reference interval 22.7-46.7%, haemoglobin 6.8 g/dL; reference interval 10.9-18.9 g/dL) and other haematological values were within normal limits.

On ultrasound examination there was evidence of extratesticular oedema on the caudal aspect of the scrotum (epididymal tail) on both the right and left side. Ultrasonographic examination of the scrotum was repeated every 2-3 days during hospitalization and extratesticular oedema improved over 12 days on treatment with flunixin and omeprazole.

On day 6 of hospitalization, haematological abnormalities included a persistent moderate anaemia still with evidence of regeneration (PCV 13.7%; reference interval 22.7-46.7%, haemoglobin 6.2 g/dL; reference interval 10.9-18.9 g/dL). Blood smear was evaluated (Figure 1).

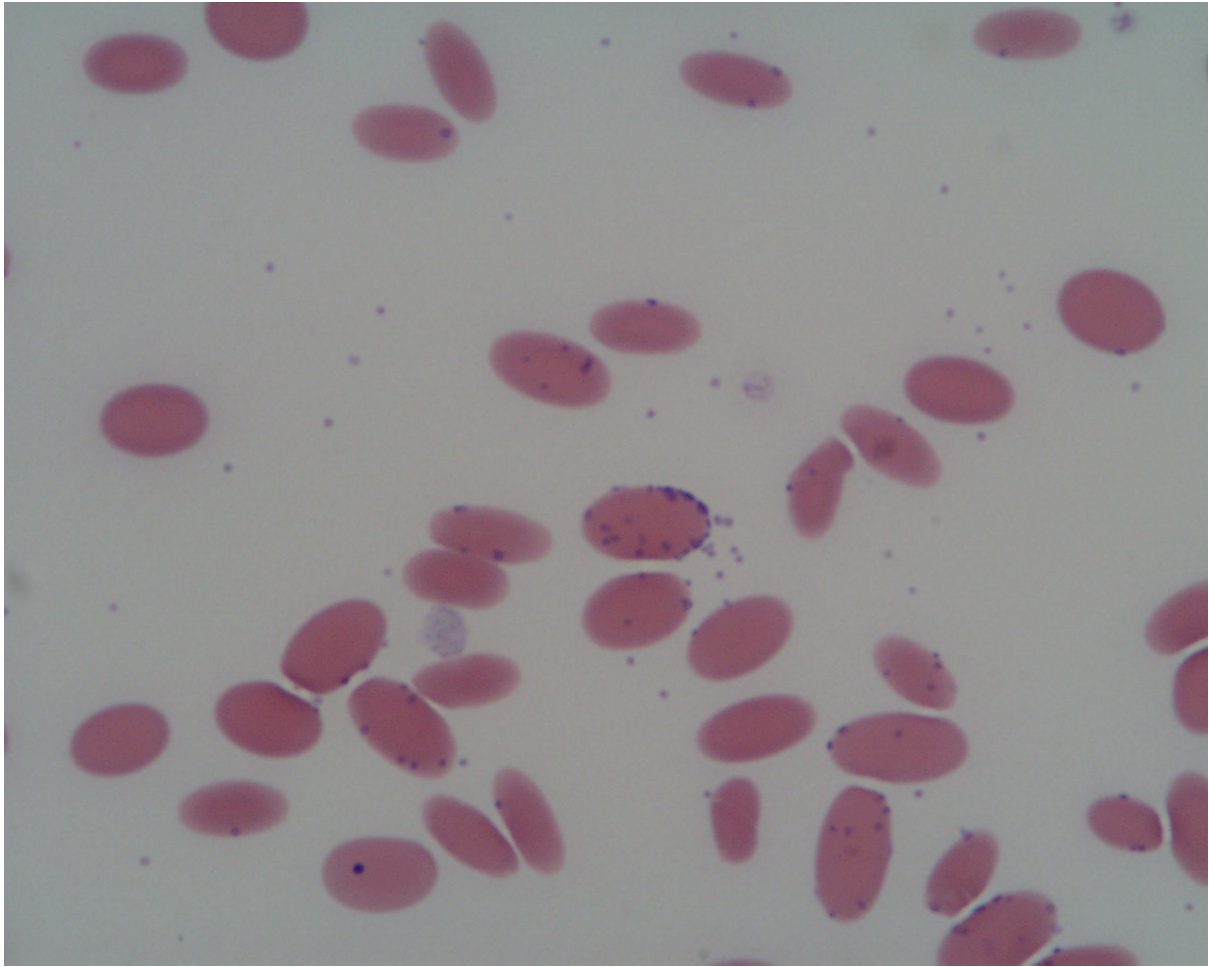


Fig 1. Blood smear from an alpaca (Modified Wright's Stain X 1000)

Questions:

1. What is your diagnosis?
2. What further diagnostics would you recommend to confirm your diagnosis?