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LEUKOMYEIODEGENERATION IN TWO AGED GERMAN SHEPHERD
LITTERMATES : PATHO-MORPHOLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS

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Two aged German Shepherd littermates, showing progressive neurological signs such as posterior weakness-to-staggering, spastic paralysis and diminished pupillary reflex, were patho-morphologically observed.

Main macroscopical features consisted of an increase of the cerebrospinal fluid, spinal cord having a transparent tingle at the marginal parts, and posterior muscular atrophy.

Main histopathological features were as follows : (a) nerve fiber degeneration in all the funiculi throughout the entire spinal cord, the degeneration being more severe in the thoracic and lumbar regions ; (b) nerve fiber degeneration in the white matter of the marginal parts of the posterior brain stem ; (c) optic nerve degeneration ; (d) existence of DNA-positive inclusion bodies in the axons in the spinal funiculi ; (e) existence of ultrastructures, such as minute-particle aggregated structures including minute virus-like particles and DNA-fibers, in the spinal funiculi ; (f) existence of the same minute-particle aggregated structures as those observed in the spinal cord in astroglia in the optic nerve.

The present dog disease was tentatively termed "canine leukomyelodegeneration".