Abdominal bleeding: HeLP worksheet

Dogs with nontraumatic hemoabdomen; primary coagulopathy excluded.

Urgent case? Call ahead. Do not delay care for scoring or chest X-rays.

Patient: _____ Breed: _____ Recorded by: _____ Date: _____

Eligibility confirmed? Circle YES / NO. If not confirmed, do not calculate.

1 USE ADMISSION FINDINGS. CIRCLE ONE ANSWER PER BOX

1 Body weight (kg)	Points
○ Below 35.1	0
○ 35.1-42.0	12
○ Above 42.0	14

2 Total plasma protein / solids - refractometer	Points
○ Below 53 g/L | below 5.3 g/dL	10
○ 53-58 g/L | 5.3-5.8 g/dL	15
○ 59-62 g/L | 5.9-6.2 g/dL	23
○ Above 62 g/L | above 6.2 g/dL	0

3 Platelets (x 10^9/L = K/µL)	Points
○ Below 60	26
○ 60-114	24
○ 115-134	27
○ Above 134	0

If reported as /µL, divide by 1,000. Example: 120,000/µL = 120 here.

4 Thoracic radiographs	Points
○ Normal lung pattern	17
○ Abnormal lung pattern, not metastatic	0
○ Metastatic lung pattern	36
○ No thoracic radiographs available	17

No chest films = 17 points. Record NOT DONE; this is not a normal chest result.

2 ALL FOUR ANSWERED? ADD THE SELECTED POINTS, THEN CIRCLE THE GROUP

TOTAL: ____ / 100 **0-40 LOW | 41-55 MEDIUM | 56-100 HIGH**

These groups describe suspicion of hemangiosarcoma (HSA), not surgical risk.

Missing weight, protein or platelets, or between bands? Mark INCOMPLETE + reason. Do not round or guess.

3 SEND THIS SHEET + medical record, reports and original images.

Weight: ____ kg Protein: ____ g/L / g/dL (circle) Platelets: ____ [units: ____] Sample date/time: _____

Chest images: done / NOT DONE (circle) Clinic: _____

Low does not exclude HSA; high does not confirm it. Tissue diagnosis is still needed. Points are not a percentage.
HeLP does not predict stability or survival. Do not base euthanasia or withholding care on the score alone.
Calculator + guide: smallanimalsurgeon.com/help-score

Board contents