Medulloblastoma in Dogs

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(To be published in full elsewhere.)

Extensive statistics about intra-ocular tumours in animals do not exist, in contrast to the human statistics.

In dogs, malignant melanoma of the choroid is relatively rare compared with melanoma of the ciliary body and iris. Metastases are not found primarily in the liver, but in the lungs and kidneys.

Epithelial tumours occur relatively frequently in the ciliary body, as compared with melanomata, so that a clinical diagnosis can often be made, thanks to the growth being in front of or at the side of the lens, and its characteristic pink colour.

Speaker shows a photograph made in hospital of a tumour, which had the appearance of a pink flower in the anterior chamber of a 7-year-old Scotch Terrier. As the tumour was growing the eye was removed. On microscopic examination the tumour was seen to have the typical epithelial structure found in man in the adult medulloblastoma: chains of epithelial cells, occasionally arranged as glandular ducts or rosettes, and areas of solid cells. A typical feature of these tumours is the almost complete absence of connective tissue stroma. The blood vessels have a hyaline coat, in which hardly any fibres can be seen on staining with connective tissue stain.