

## Antler Issues



Antlers issues can appear many different ways – the case study I'm about to share can be applied to any antler situation. Top photo was an infection found at the base after the antler was shed. Bottom photo was an antler break – if left untreated, many problems can result from these antler issues.



Why does it happen like this with reindeer – one day all is fine.....and the next day you can be dealing with a disaster. – It was a quiet morning at Reindeer Games – I came home from an afternoon appointment and found Vixen in the barn with a cable wrapped around her antler – we have a door in our barn which closes with a cable pulley system – it’s used when we need to close the door to capture out bull when he’s in rut. Well I was the last one to use the cable and didn’t tighten it properly. Leave it to a reindeer to mess with something different. Vixen had the cable wrapped tightly around her antler about 12 times. Luckily she waited there till I came home and the other reindeer didn’t mess with her. I didn’t find any tears, so thought we got off pretty lucky.

This happened July 22



On July 29 – is when I noticed a split in a couple places on the antler. The splits were full of maggots.

Photos after maggots were rinsed out – velvet on antler was reched. Couldn't take photos before – I was so grossed out. There here hundreds of swarming maggots (why does this stuff happen when I'm alone – is what I was thinking) Oh well, deal with it.....I rinsed the antler with a hose – pulling the still live velvet to get out all the maggots. Vixen was in horrible pain. Gave her oils to relax and calm – lavender and peace/calming. I used those oils on me too. Also gave her homeopathy for pain relief – arnica – which is a tablet that dissolves in her mouth. After I was done – I ran to the house, and jumped in the shower. Maggots are by far the most gross thing I've ever had to deal with.



We had a mess on our hands and knew that if there were flies and maggots – there was bacteria. And infection may set in. We peeled and cut as much velvet as we could initially. Poor Vixen was moaning as we did this. This is a situation where I will use chemicals to kill the maggots that we may not have found – we used screw worm spray on all the exposed areas.

Then I rinsed the entire antler with Purification oil– which wards against bugs, it’s good for infection, bug bites. Also coated the entire antler with Animal Scents Ointment.

I had concern that the maggots and possible bacteria infection could travel to her head at the base of the antler, so we decided to tie off the antler about 2” below the lowest affected area



Here a photo showing where we tied it off. I treated her daily - Vixen was an ideal patient. She was so calm even when she was dealing with pain. I started spraying her with Thieves spray and also started her on Ningxia Red – which is an immune boosting supplement – put Thieves oil in her NR which she got daily. We didn't know what would happen with the tie off – called Steve Pulera for consultation – after a couple of days Vixen's shovel was so inflamed and hot to the touch. I figured it was a build up of pressure and blood from the tie off – but was concerned we were doing her more harm than good. At this point – Jeff and I had to stay positive for Vixen.



I continued with this treatment checking her morning and night. Also used Melrose on the open wound. Good to rotate more than one oil when dealing with a wound. Above the tie was now cold so I started to peel off what I could – the velvet was so thick so you can see where I sliced into it so I could peel it off. It was cold and dead but very bloody – At this point, she didn't seem to have any pain.



Now we were at about one month into this issue. I noticed infection started when the tied off was....continued her on a rotation of oils topically – all the ones for infection – Melrose, RC, Lemongrass, Thieves,

I wanted to stay positive and tried so keep my attitude for Vixen. She is one of our sleigh pullers and is needed in exhibit season. Fear was not her dying – I knew we would kill this infection – but could we save the antler? She can't go to work with one antler.



About three weeks later - here's Vixen after she naturally shed velvet – you see we still had some dried on velvet on the injured antler – that's OK – problem was I was still dealing infection. It was now at the base on her antler – the base was mushy and oozed infection on a daily basis. Time to step up my program....I began injections of frankincense at the base of her antler. Still gave her topically oils that I was rotating before – Thieves, Melrose, RC, Lemongrass....and she got her daily Ningxia Red. One benefit about using oils over antibiotics – some of you may be wondering why I didn't do both ----antibiotics suppress the immune system. Extended use of them can cause other issues to happen in the future. My goal is always to boost the immune system.



Beginning of October and Vixen still had some drainage. After the injections at the base of the antler – it was minimal. From having the entire base ooze infection, it went down to about ¼ of the circumference was still bad.

This brought me back to all the things we did for Rudolph when he was sick with the fungus infection. We did detox mineral soaks on Rudi – 2 x's a day for six weeks. It' pulls toxin from the body. This is what we do for dogs with allergies.

So I did three soaks on Vixen in one week. The soaks are 45 minutes to do the detoxification process. Oils are put into the soaks – this is a great way for the body to received oils – after the three days – the infection was gone. I have checked her head everyday for the past two weeks and the infection hasn't returned.

And Jon is bringing Vixen in for you all to see her today