

## **BASAL CELL TUMOR IN AN INDIAN LEOPARD**

Authors: BROWN, RICHARD J., DAVIS, ROBERT D., TREVETHAN, WALTER P., and JOHNSON, NED L.

Source: Journal of Wildlife Diseases, 8(3) : 237-238

Published By: Wildlife Disease Association

URL: <https://doi.org/10.7589/0090-3558-8.3.237>

---

BioOne Complete ([complete.BioOne.org](https://complete.BioOne.org)) is a full-text database of 200 subscribed and open-access titles in the biological, ecological, and environmental sciences published by nonprofit societies, associations, museums, institutions, and presses.

Your use of this PDF, the BioOne Complete website, and all posted and associated content indicates your acceptance of BioOne's Terms of Use, available at [www.bioone.org/terms-of-use](https://www.bioone.org/terms-of-use).

Usage of BioOne Complete content is strictly limited to personal, educational, and non - commercial use. Commercial inquiries or rights and permissions requests should be directed to the individual publisher as copyright holder.

---

BioOne sees sustainable scholarly publishing as an inherently collaborative enterprise connecting authors, nonprofit publishers, academic institutions, research libraries, and research funders in the common goal of maximizing access to critical research.

## BASAL CELL TUMOR IN AN INDIAN LEOPARD

RICHARD J. BROWN<sup>[1]</sup>, ROBERT D. DAVIS<sup>[2]</sup>, WALTER P. TREVETHAN<sup>[3]</sup>, NED L. JOHNSON<sup>[4]</sup>

**Abstract:** A 10 year old male Indian leopard developed a rapidly enlarging mass on the volar left forepaw. Histopathologic examination revealed a basal cell tumor. No reoccurrence has been reported to date, 1 year after excision.

### INTRODUCTION

#### Case Report

In March of 1971 a 10 year old male Indian leopard was acquired by a south Florida Zoological Garden. At that time he exhibited a 2 x 3 cm mass on the volar aspect of the left forepaw. The lesion remained stationary until 3 weeks prior to excision. It had quadrupled in size during the last 3 weeks.

#### Materials and Methods

The pyramidal mass was 9 cm by 12 cm and weighed 7 grams when removed under a general anesthetic. The tumor was fixed in formalin, embedded in paraffin, sectioned at 7 microns, and stained with hematoxylin and eosin.

#### Results

The tumor did not appear to be encapsulated, contained multiple sized zones of softening, and was pinkish gray on the cut surface. Histologically, the tumor cells were intimately associated with the

stroma, and many of the nuclei were hyperchromatic. The cells tended to palisade with their long axes at right angles to the long axis of the palisade column (Fig. 1). The tumor was not well encapsulated and contained many islands and lobules, each containing numerous nests of the tumor cells, and separated by thick bands of collagen. The tumor was separated from the epidermis by nests of lymphocytes, a few neutrophils and eosinophils and some fibrosis. Several areas of focal ulceration were present and in these areas there was more acute inflammation.

### DISCUSSION

Basal cell tumors or basalomas<sup>3</sup> are common in the dog and have been reported occasionally in the cat, horse, and rabbit. Occurrence of this tumor in other animals is considered rare.<sup>2</sup> In the domestic cat, the basal cell tumor is the second most common skin tumor, exceeded only by the squamous cell carcinoma.<sup>1</sup> It has no anatomic site of preference. The basal cell tumor may reoccur locally, is persistently invasive, but will rarely metastasize and is highly radiosensitive.<sup>4</sup>

### Acknowledgements

Opinions expressed are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views or endorsement of the U.S. Army, U.S. Air Force, or U.S. Navy.

[1], [3] Dr. Brown is Head, Comparative Pathology Branch, Naval Aerospace Medical Research Laboratory, Naval Aerospace Medical Institute, Naval Aerospace Medical Center, Pensacola, Florida 32512, U.S.A. Dr. Trevethan is Assistant Head, Comparative Pathology Branch.

[2] Dr. Davis is a pathologist at the Naples Community Hospital, Naples, Florida.

[4] Dr. Johnson is in private practice in Naples, Florida.

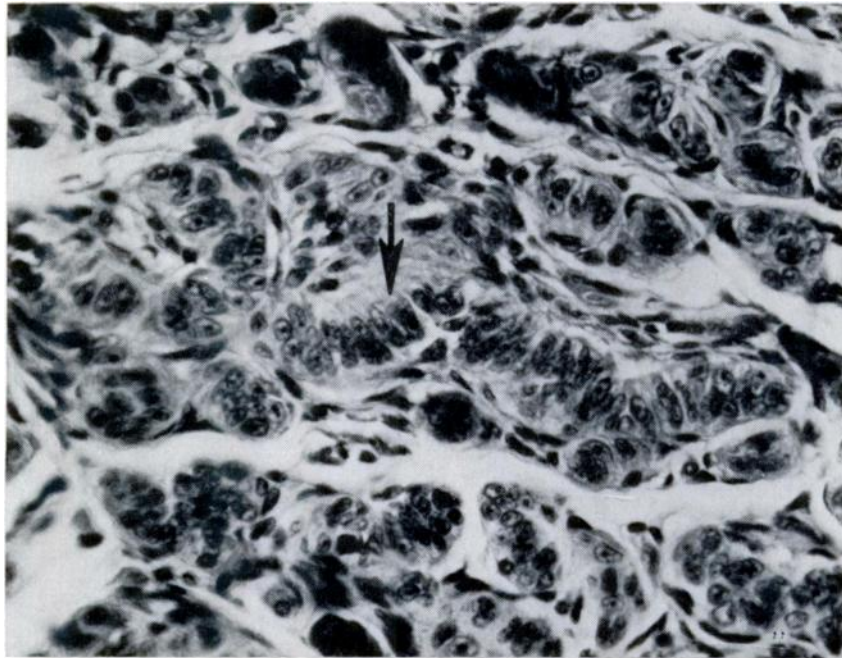


FIGURE 1. Photomicrograph of leopard basal cell tumor. Note the palisading of tumor cells (arrow). H & E, 450 X.

---

#### REFERENCES

1. CATTICOT, E. M. 1962. *Feline Medicine and Surgery*. American Veterinary Publications, Santa Barbara, p. 162.
2. MOULTON, J. E. 1961. *Tumors in Domestic Animals*. University of California Press, Berkeley, p. 46.
3. NIEBERLE, and P. COHNS. 1967. *Special Pathologic Anatomy of Domestic Animals*. Pergamon Press, New York, p. 982.
4. SMITH, H. A., and T. C. JONES. 1966. *Veterinary Pathology*. Lea and Febiger, Philadelphia, Edition 3, p. 212.

*Received for publication February 10, 1972*

---