

Distemper in a Ferret

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Signalment

- **4 year old, male castrated ferret**
- **Rescue case with foot lesions and a mucocutaneous rash**
- **Multiple samples of skin and foot pads submitted by referring veterinarian**



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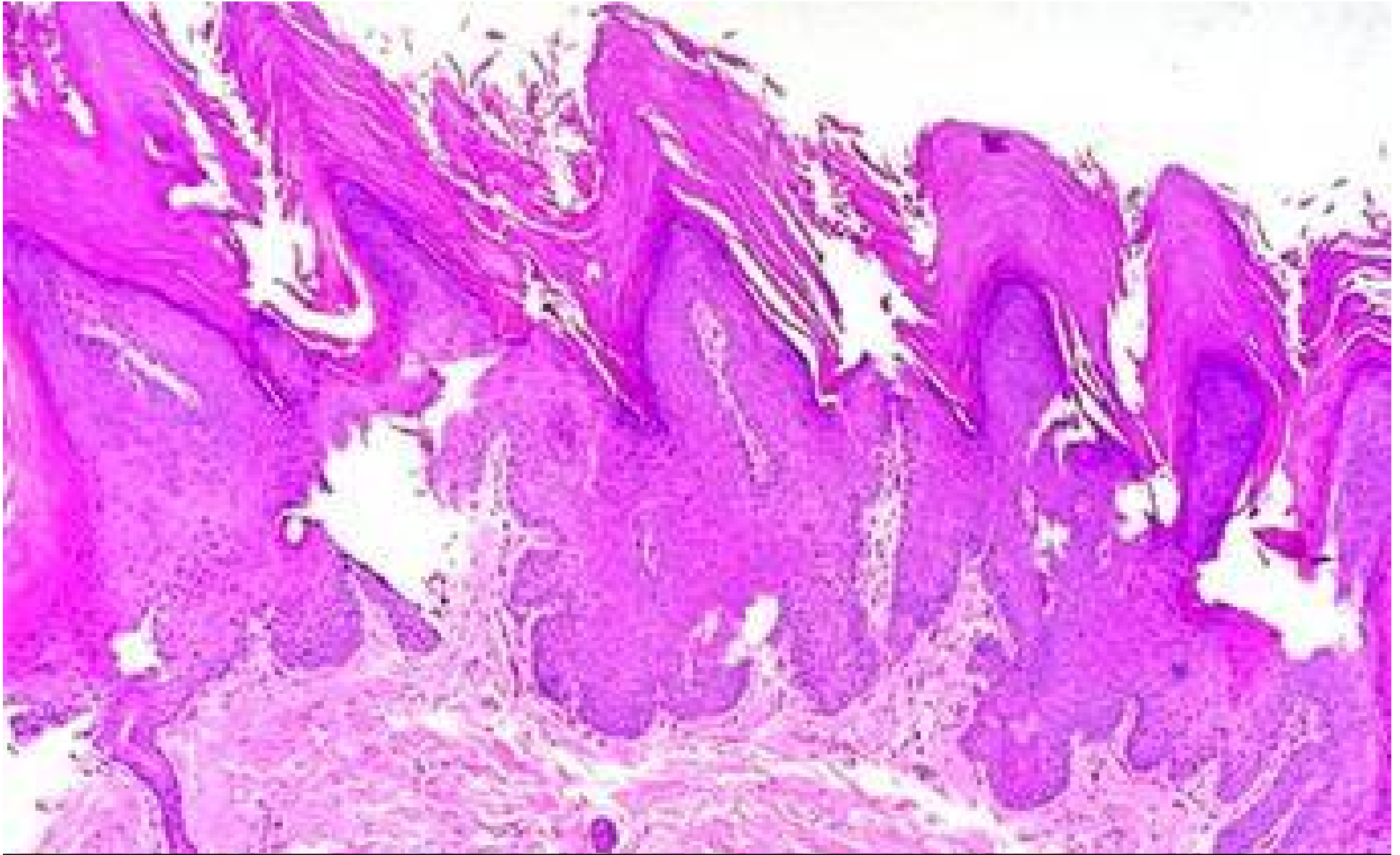
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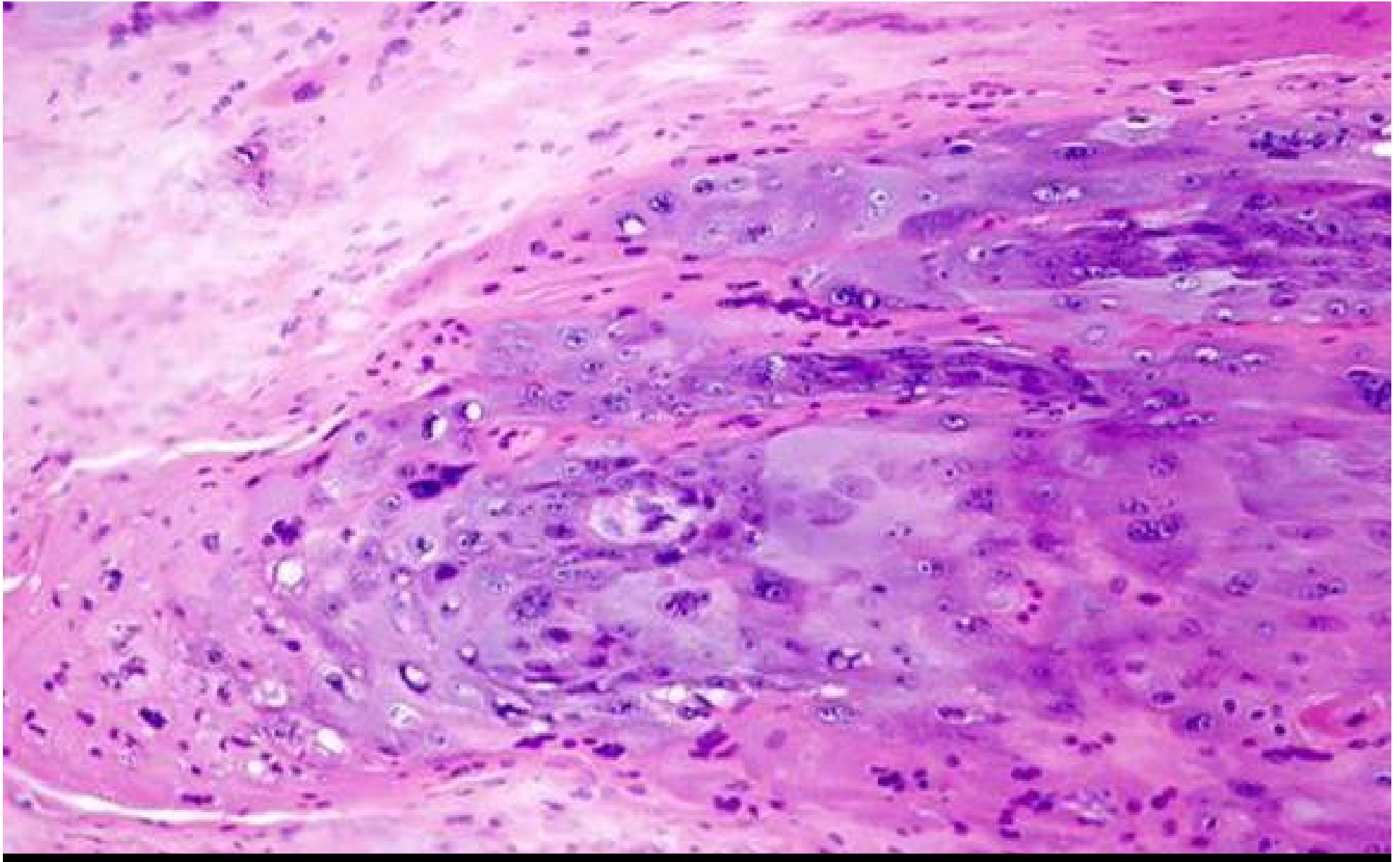
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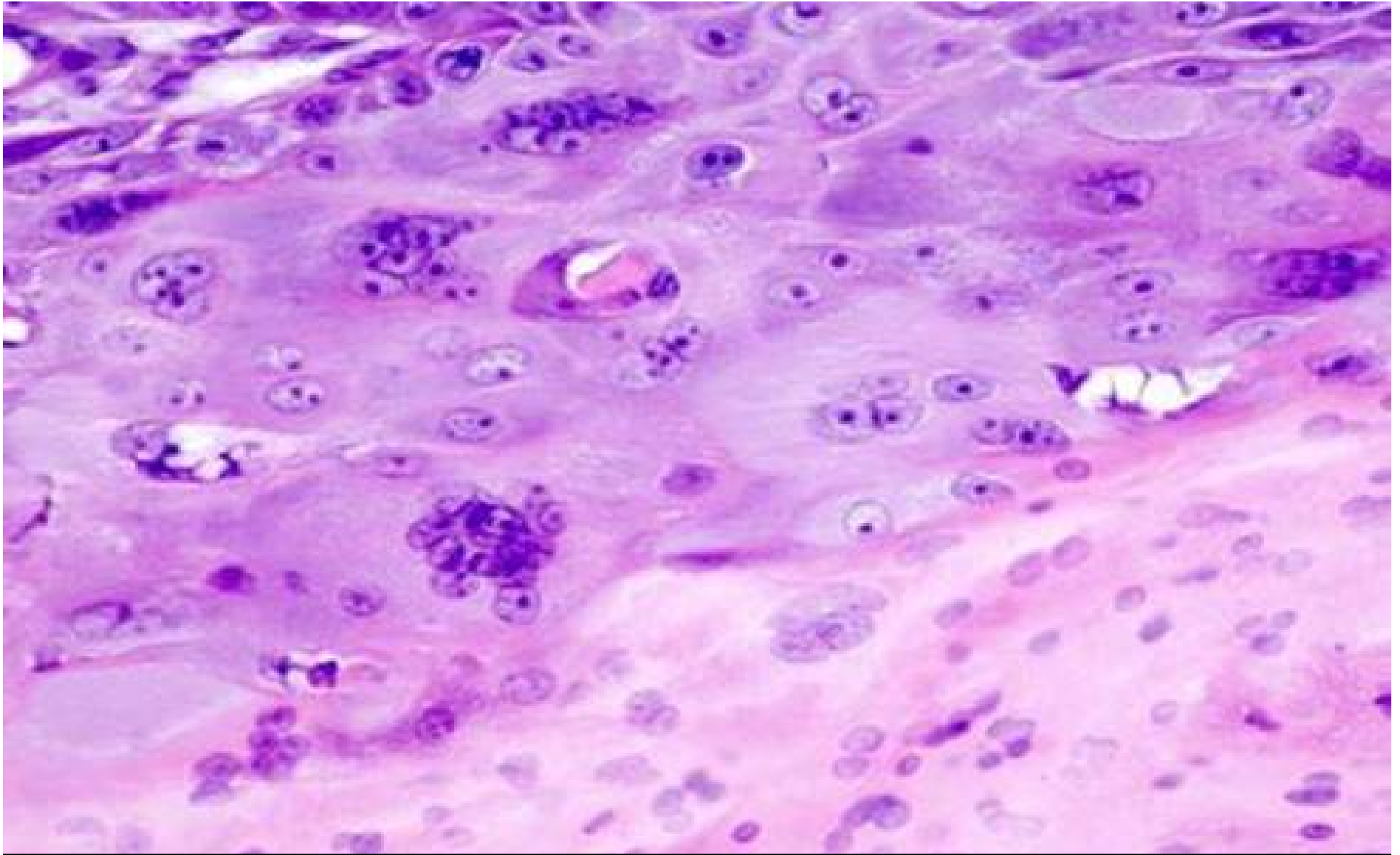
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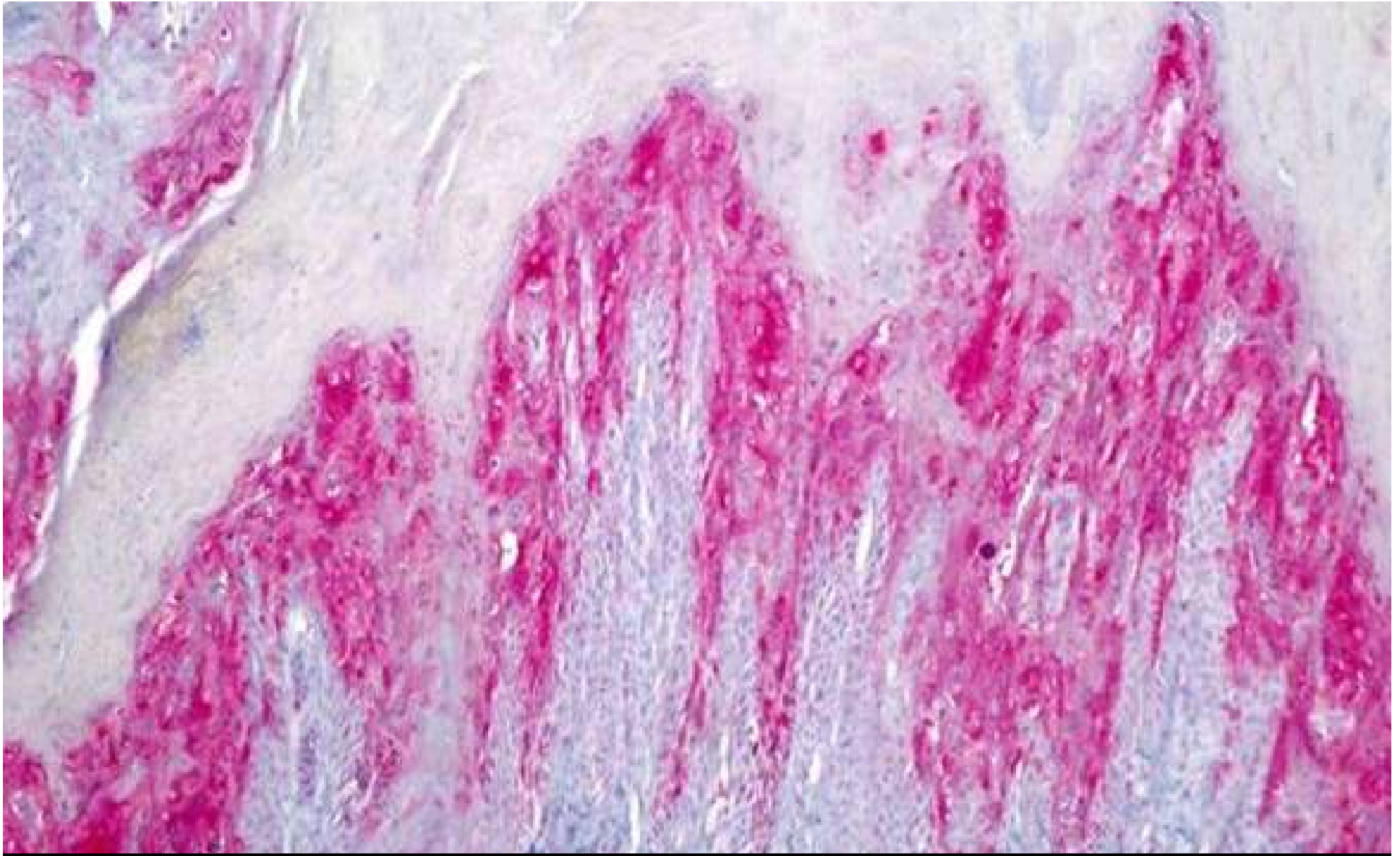
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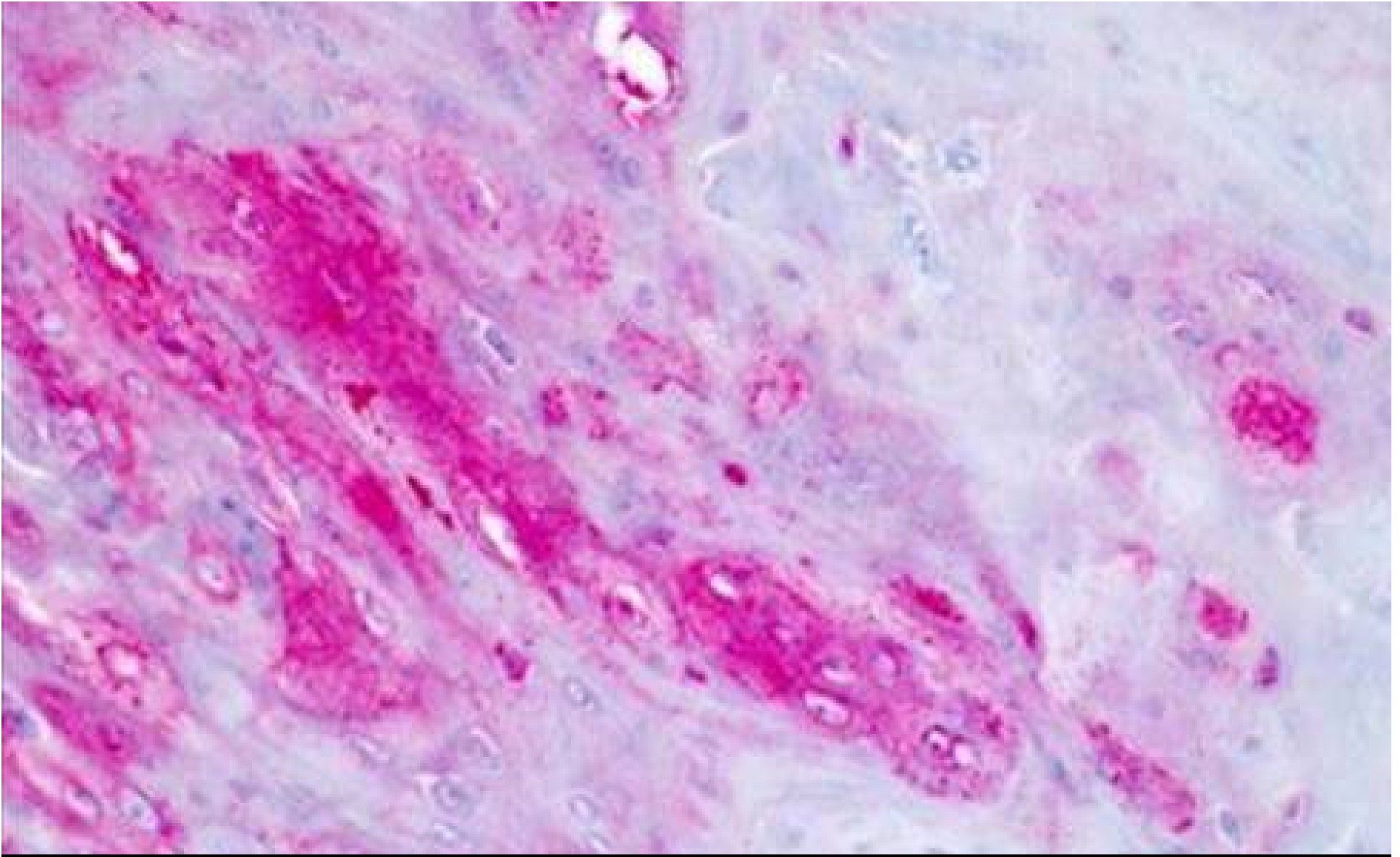
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Morphological Diagnosis

Food pad, Diffuse epidermal hyperplasia with marked hyperkeratotic parakeratosis, syncytia formation and intralesional inclusion bodies

Canine Distemper Virus

- **Disease in various mustelids:**
 - **mink, ferret, weasel, skunk, badger, otter, martin**
- **Most serious disease in ferrets, 100% fatal**
- **Virus spread by aerosolization**
- **Replicates in respiratory epithelium and regional lymph nodes, viremia within 4-5 days**
- **Lesions similar to those in dogs:**
 - **Limited to cutaneous and ocular alterations, oculonasal discharge, hyperkeratosis of the planum nasale and footpads, and a papular rash (starts on the chin, progresses to generalized form)**
 - **Catarrhal to mucopurulent rhinitis, tracheitis and bronchitis, dyspnea and diarrhea**
 - **Later neurologic signs of myoclonus, paresis and convulsions, death**

Canine Distemper

- **Treatment: NONE**
- **Prevention:**
 - **Fervac-D**
 - High rate of anaphylaxis
 - Effective?
 - **Galaxy-D**
 - Effective
 - High titers
 - Extralabel Use
 - **Purevax**
 - Recombinant canarypox
 - HA and F antigens



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