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Surgical management of foreign body impaction in a goat: A case report

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Abstract

A free range goat was presented with a history of distended abdomen and inappetance following parturition. The distended rumen did not reduce even after rumen trocarisation and was diagnosed with the presence of foreign body in the rumen. On Rumenotomy 800 gram foreign material was removed and the animal recovered uneventfully.

Keywords: Goat rumen; foreign body; impaction; Rumenotomy

1. Introduction

Allotrophagia or pica refers to ingestion of materials other than normal feed. This is due to dietary deficiency of bulk or individual nutrients particularly salt, cobalt or phosphorus [1, 2]. In urban areas, goats are reared during day time on semi free range system beside roads. These animals sometimes engulf many non-feed material like gunny bags, plastic rope, polythene, metallic foreign bodies etc. Ingestion of non-digestible materials in huge amount causes bloat or tympany due to gas accumulation in the rumen which is an emergency condition in ruminants. Bloat occurs when the gas is produced at a rapid rate rather than eructed [3]. Rumen impaction due to plastic, resins, leather and clothes are referred as non-penetrating foreign body syndrome [4]. Rumenotomy is indicated in ruminal impaction of the foreign body induced bloat [5].

2. Case history and diagnosis

A two year old local indigenous goat was presented with a complaint of the distended abdomen, inappetance and associated with distress following kidding 2 days back. History revealed that the owner reared the goat in free range system and also revealed the tendency of the goat in chewing clothes frequently. The animal was not taking feed properly and lied down with distended abdomen. The goat was examined and the abdomen was palpated. Tentatively, the animal was diagnosed as acute bloat.

3. Treatment

Rumenotomy was performed since trocarisation failed to relieve the ruminal distension. The operation was undertaken in right recumbency with local anaesthesia. The surgical site was prepared aseptically and inverted L- block with 2% lignocaine infiltrated. Rumenotomy was performed as per the standard procedure and the foreign body material weighing over 800 grams which included cloth pieces, plastic, small barb wires and some undigested materials was evacuated from the rumen. The surgical incision was closed as per the standard procedure. Antibiotics and analgesics were administered post operatively and the animal recovered uneventfully.



Fig 1: Undigested foreign bodies found in the rumen of goat

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4. Discussion

In urban areas, the grazing areas are not available and animals search for food at non feeding places which may lead to mineral deficiency. Out of hunger or pica, animals feed whatever they get or in pica or free range system of rearing, goats consume indigestible or foreign materials [6]. It was reported that ingestion of foreign bodies was associated with a shortage of forage and increased pollution of grazing land with indigestible foreign bodies [7]. In rumen, gas was produced due to fermentation but eructation did not occur due to obstruction of foreign or indigestible materials which was the main cause of acute bloat and animal was unable to stand the symptoms and the operative procedure of acute bloat in a goat has been previously discussed [8]. The goat presented with distended abdomen after parturition was diagnosed as foreign body impaction and Rumenotomy was performed in time and the animal recovered uneventfully. Rearing animals in farming conditions with sufficient natural feedstuff prevents these kinds of managemental disorders.

5. Conclusion

It is concluded that foreign body impaction in small ruminants must probably be considered a surgical condition and also that littering the environment with plastic bags and other indigestible materials also pose a serious health problems for free grazing small ruminants unless appropriate measure is taken.

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