

MUMMIFIED FOETUS AND PUP WITH EVISCERATED INTESTINE IN A PUG BITCH

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ABSTRACT

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The present study reports a case of mummified fetus and pup with protruded intestine in a bitch delivered after full term.

Key words: Mummified foetus, Evisceration, Pug breed, Caesarean operation.

CASE HISTORY AND OBSERVATIONS

A Pug bitch aged about 1.5 years was presented to Referral Veterinary Hospital cum clinical complex, Faculty of Veterinary Sciences and Animal Husbandry, Jammu, with the history that bitch had delivered two dead fetus in a local veterinary hospital in the morning without any further progress of fetal deliveries. Intermittent greenish red discharge from vagina was coming out. It was reported that the pug had completed the normal gestation period and continuing labour pain since last 5 hours. On general examination, the bitch was dull, depressed and completely anorectic with rectal temperature 102.4°F and pulse rate 95 per minute.

TREATMENT AND DISCUSSION

On abdominal palpation, the fetal mass was felt as the hard swelling on the ventral abdomen. After per-vaginal examination, the vaginal passage was felt dried

and cervix was slightly dilated. The sterile liquid paraffin was applied in vaginal passage for lubrication and with the help of whelping forceps one dead fetus and one live fetus with intestine protruding out (Fig.1) was delivered. The pup having eviscerated intestine was treated by reposing the eviscerated part and applying interrupted horizontal mattress sutures with nylon (no. 1/0) on abdominal skin. But the eviscerated pup died after two hour of delivery. X-ray examination revealed the presence of two fetal skeletons. The caesarean operation was performed as routine manner. NSS (100 ml slow IV) and Metrodac (50 ml IV) was administered before and during operation. After caesarean operation, two mummified fetuses were delivered (Fig.2). The post operative care was taken carefully in the present case. Fetal mummification is very common in animals with larger litter size like swine and feline, less common in sheep, cattle and mare, but rare in canines (Arthur et al. 1996). Fetal death in domestic animals occurring in middle or last third of gestation that does not result in luteolysis and abortion causes autolytic changes in the fetus, absorption of fetal fluids and mummification (Roberts 1971). The fetal mummification is a common problem in polytocous and rare in monotocous species animals. In the present case, one dead fetus, one eviscerated fetus and two mummified fetuses were removed. Fetuses may get mummified and live with normal live fetuses (Srivastava, 2005). Similar finding was also reported in swine, feline (Arthur et al., 1996) and canine (Prabhakar et al., 2004 and Cheede et

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al., 2004). The main reason for the lack of expulsion of dead mummified fetus in present case may be because of primary uterine inertia which is common in canine species (Romagnoly *et al.*, 2004). Walett and Linde (1994) also reported uterine inertia as main cause of dystocia in bitches.

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Fig 1: Live fetus with eviscerated intestine.



Fig 2: One mummified fetus