FETAL RESORPTION IN ASIAN JACKAL (CANIS AUREUS) - A CASE REPORT

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Asiatic jackal typically inhabits lowlands on the outskirts of towns, villages and farms, where they shelter in holes among ruins or dense brush. In animals, pregnancy loss may occur at any stage of gestation. Sometimes, there is failure of an aborting fetus to be expelled perhaps due to uterine inertia and intrauterine infections resulting in fetal emphysema and maceration (Jhonston et al., 2001). Under the circumstance, bacteria enter the dilated cervix and the soft tissues are digested by putrefaction and autolysis leaving a mass of foetal bones within the uterus. These bones may be embedded within the uterine wall resulting in a chronic endometritis and severe damage to the endometrium (Ate et al., 2011). The most common causes of both fetal resorption and abortion are fetal defects, abnormal maternal environment, infectious agents, i.e., Brucella, Canine herpes virus infection, trauma and inadequate progesterone level in mother. The cases of foetal resorption have been reported from many species of domestic animals but reports are rare in case of wild animals.

CASE HISTORY

A female Jackal aged 5 years maintained at Mahraj Bagh Zoo, Nagpur was brought for the post mortem investigation at Department of Veterinary Pathology, Nagpur Veterinary College, Nagpur which was exhibited symptoms of weakness, lethargy, inappatance and dehydration before death and showed no response to the treatment. A detailed post mortem examination was carried out and organs were collected in 10% formal saline for histopathological examination.

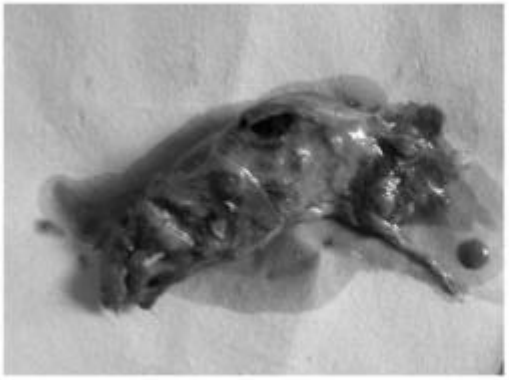

Photo 1. Resorped fetus recovered from uterus

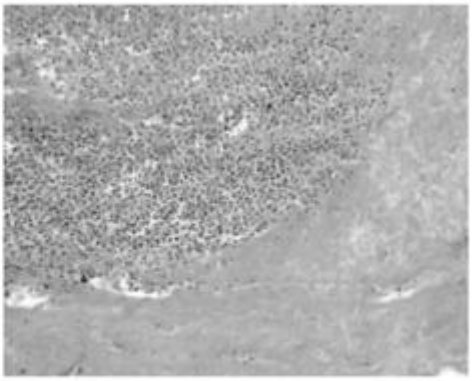

Photo 2. Chronic inflammatory reaction in uterus

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Post mortem examination revealed presence of serous fluid in the thoracic cavity indicating hydrothorax, pale mucous membranes with empty stomach and intestine. In abdominal cavity, asymmetric uterine horns were detected. Gross examination revealed enlarged and turgid uterus. On palpation it was found tight and contracted. After opening of uterus it showed severely congested mucosa with metritis. Masses of two reabsorbed, macerated black coloured fetuses were noticed

(Photo 1). Inguinal lymph node was enlarged and other organs including lung, kidneys, liver and mesenteric vessels were severely congested.

Histopathological examination of uterus reveled denudation of endometrial epithelium along with some portion of endometrium. There was evidences of infiltration of mononuclear cells and plasma cells (Photo 2) extending into deep myometrium indicating chronic inflammatory condition. These findings are in agreement with Varma et al., (2001) who reported the case of fetal resorption in wild sow from Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Similar findings of foetal resorption were also reported by Arthur et al., (1989) in domestic animals as early pregnancy failure and Bloom (1968) in bitches and queens. Such case of foetal resorption in Asian jackle was not reported especially from central India, therefore authors placed on record the case of foetal resorption in Asian jackle.

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