

NOTAS E INFORMAÇÕES NOTES AND INFORMATION

FETAL MUMMIFICATION IN A BITCH WITH PYOMETRA

MASAO IWASAKI
Professor Assistente Doutor
Faculdade de Medicina Veterinária
e Zootecnia da USP

BENEDICTO WLADEMIR DE MARTIN
Professor Adjunto
Faculdade de Medicina Veterinária
e Zootecnia da USP

JOSÉ DE ALVARENGA
Professor Livre-Docente
Faculdade de Medicina Veterinária
e Zootecnia da USP

MASAO, I. Fetal mummification in a bitch with pyometra. *Rev. Fac. Med. vet. Zootec. Univ. S. Paulo*, 18(2): 177-179, 1981.

SUMMARY: It is reported a case of a bitch presenting fetal mummification in the abdominal cavity concomitant with pyometra, being considered an uncommon finding at veterinary literature. The animal was treated surgically with absolute success.

UNITERMS: Bitch*; Fetal mummification*; Pyometra*.

INTRODUCTION AND LITERATURE

Fetal mummification can result from disturbance at the course of pregnancy, when fetal death is not associated to microbial contaminations. The process of mummification carries reabsorption of placental liquids and, consequently, involution of fetal membranes, that stay adhered to dried fetus (JUBB & KENNEDY², 1973).

Fetal mummification in dogs occurs after uterine traumas (SMITH⁴, 1974), however, it is considered rare in this species (ROBERTS³, 1971). On the other hand, (SMITH⁴, 1974) mentions the possibility of rupture of uterine wall consequent from dystocias, and at certain conditions, it can have dislocation of fetus to the abdominal cavity. If fetal circulation is maintained, with fetal death, it will be possible that it suffers reabsorption or produces peritonitis.

The purpose of this report is to detain for lack of information at veterinary literature about occurrence of fetal mummification at abdominal cavity in animals of canine species, associated to pyometra.

CLINICAL REPORT

It was presented to clinical examination a mongrel bitch 7 years old, multiparous, having the last pregnancy occurred 2 years ago. At the two last months, the animal showed, twice, vaginal discharge with bloody aspect, being treated with antibiotic, till suppression of symptoms.

At clinical examination, it was verified an enlargement of the abdomen, bloody vaginal discharge, rectal temperature 39,3°C, congestive mucous membranes. At abdominal touching, presence of formation suggesting an enlargement of uterine horns and also inappetence. Hemogram revealed leukocytosis (17.250/mm³), plasmatic degeneration of neutrophils, monocytosis and increase of young neutrophils. Radiographic examinations of abdominal cavity at lateral (figure 1) and ventro-dorsal positions, and also excretory urography technics revealed defined contour of the uterus, with enlargement occupying all the medium-caudal position of abdomen, and also the presence of image of round formation, with heterogenous density, but suggesting esquelitic structure, situated at cranial-ventral region.

A clinical pyometra diagnosis was suggested, associated to probable presence of mummified fetus in the abdominal cavity. It was indicated surgical treatment, through laparotomy, when it was verified pyometra associated to the round formation at the adipose tissue of epiploon.

It was realized ovariohysterectomy and excision of the formation situated at the epiploon, having the animal presented favourable post-operative evolution.

At the examination of the conjunct ovary-horn-uterus, it was verified, at the wall of the uterus, point of cicatricial retraction, with growth of adipose tissue (figure 2); the

round formation, after opened its fibrose membrane, exhibited at its interior, a mummified fetus (figure 3).

DISCUSSION

This report points to found clinical setting extremely rare, because the fetal mummification referred by SMITH⁴ (1974) only occurs in absence of microbial contamination (JUBB & KENNEDY², 1973) and it would be rare at the canine species (ROBERTS³, 1971).

The mummified fetus was located in the abdominal cavity, possibly since last pregnancy, having reached that site through rupture of uterine wall, according to cicatricial reaction found in the uterus. Concomitantly, it was evidenced presence of pyometra that was suspected by radiologic examination through the technique of excretory urography (IWASAKI¹, 1977), that permitted verification of isolation between formation involving mummified fetus and uterine horns.

IWASAKI, M. Feto mumificado em uma cadela com piometra. Rev. Fac.Med.vet.Zootec.Univ.S. Paulo, 18(2): 177-179, 1981.

RESUMO: Relato de caso de uma cadela que apresentava feto mumificado concomitantemente com piometra; quadro incomum na literatura veterinária. O animal foi tratado cirurgicamente com absoluto sucesso.

UNITERMOS: Feto, mumificação*; Cadelas*; Piometra*.

REFERENCES

- 1— IWASAKI, M. **Estudo do aparelho urinário e de patologias abdominais em cães e gatos, mediante emprego da urografia excretora.** São Paulo, 1977. [Tese de Doutorado. Instituto de Biociências – Universidade de São Paulo]
- 2— JUBB, K.V.F. & KENNEDY, P.C. **Patologia de los animales domesticos.** Barcelona, Labor, 1973. p.611.
- 3— ROBERTS, S.J. **Veterinary obstetrics and genital diseases.** New York, Ithaca, 1971. p.173-174.
- 4— SMITH, K.W. Female genital system. In: ARCHIBALD, J. **Canine medicine.** 2.ed. California, AVP, 1974. p.751-774.

Recebido para publicação em: 16-03-81

Aprovado para publicação em: 27-08-81

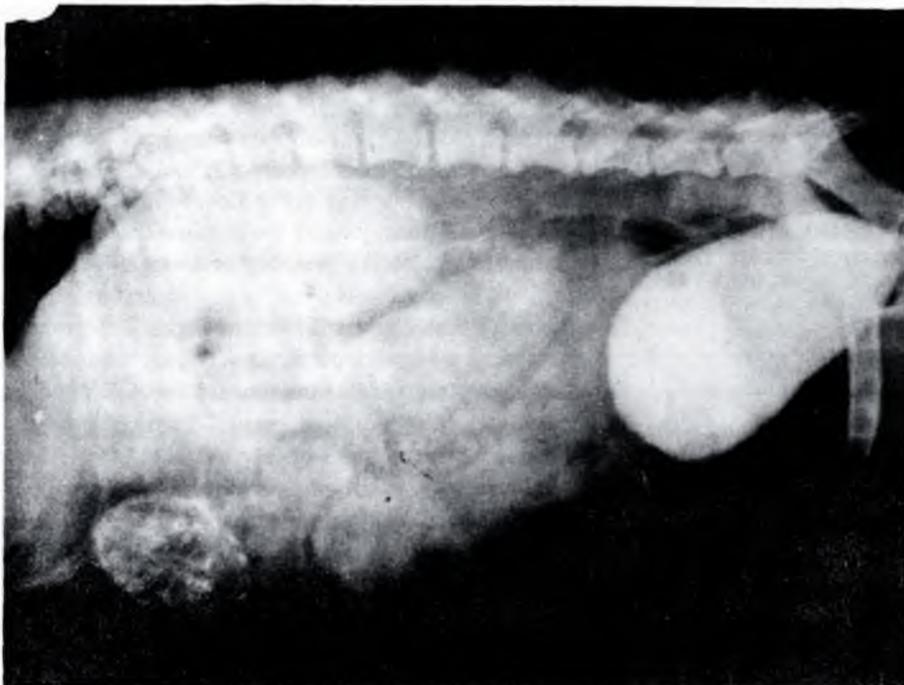


FIG.1- Lateral radiography of excretory urography, showing defined contour of enlarged uterus and correspondent image of mummified fetus.



FIG. 2- Photo of enlarged uterine horns and mummified fetus envolved by fibrose membrane.



FIG. 3- Photo of enlarged uterine horns and mummified fetus.