Dental Malocclusion in a Rabbit - A Case Report

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Abstract

A 3 year old male New Zealand White rabbit weighing 3.25kg, was brought to the Avian and Exotic Pet Unit, Madras Veterinary College Teaching Hospital with a history of overgrown incisor teeth, reduced appetite and body weight. The diet of the rabbit was cauliflower leaves, cabbage, greens and carrot. Chemically restrained with ketamine 20mg/kg, IM for clinical examination and treatment. On physical examination, revealed overgrown upper and lower incisors. Tooth was curved backwards and piercing the gums with marked swelling. By using canine nail clipper, the incisors were trimmed. Incisors were rasped to remove the sharp edges. Rabbit recovered from the clinical condition and started to take its food.

Key words: Incisor – Malocclusion – Overgrown - Rabbit

Rabbits are Hypsodont; the incisors, premolars and molars continued to grown throughout their life and by wear and tear the normal length of teeth will be maintained. In healthy rabbits, the teeth are kept in shape by continual growth and attrition. Rabbits can be seen grinding their teeth when they are at rest.

Malocclusion (mandibular prognathism and brachygnathism) is the most common inherited disease and it leads to overgrown incisors teeth which results in difficulty in feeding and watering. Occasionally, the premolar and molars overgrow, which cause severe lesions in the tongue.

Case History and Observations

A 3 year old male New Zealand White rabbit, weighing 3.25kg, was brought to the Avian and Exotic Pet Unit, Madras Veterinary College Teaching Hospital with a history of overgrown incisor teeth, reduced appetite and body weight. It was fed with cauliflower leaves, cabbage, greens and carrot.

On clinical examination the rabbit was found to be restless, with overgrown upper and lower incisors. The tooth was curved backwards (Fig. 1) and was found to pierce the gums which caused swelling.

Fig 1. Overgrown incisors (Upper & Lower) - Rabbit

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Dental Malocclusion in a Rabbit...

Treatment and Discussion
Malocclusion was treated by shortening, reshaping or removing maloccluding teeth. Realignment is not possible, although digital pressure for at least one hour a day to realign maloccluded incisors has been proposed (Emily, 1991). The rabbit was anesthetized with ketamine 20mg/kg, IM and the incisors were trimmed using canine nail clipper. Later, the incisors were rasped to remove the sharp edges. Clipping incisor teeth with nail clippers is the traditional approach to trim the overgrown incisors (Eisele, 1986; Rosskopf and Woerpel 1982). Hand-held clippers are cheap, quick and easily available and are unlikely to cause iatrogenic soft tissue damage (Varga, 2014). The rabbit was administered with enrofloxacin at 5mg/kg PO q12h and meloxicam 0.2 mg/kg PO q24h for 3 days. Rabbit recovered from the clinical condition and started to take its food.

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References

Successful Treatment of Contagious Ecthyma (ORF) in Goats Using Ethno Veterinary Medicine

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Abstract
An observation on the incidence of contagious ecthyma (ORF) in 25 goats was made at Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Namakkal during November 2013. The animals developed pyrexia with restricted feed intake, appeared dull, depressed with lesions on muzzle, nostrils and lips. The morbidity was 100 percentage, but there was no mortality. The animals were isolated without allowing for browsing and stall fed. The lesions were washed with ordinary tap water and an ethno veterinary medicine paste of tender neem leaves, turmeric and few drops of lemon juice was applied over the lesions thrice daily. There was complete recovery within two weeks.

Key words: Contagious ecthyma, Goats, Ethno Veterinary treatment

ORF, known as as sore mouth or contagious pustular dermatitis (Thomas et al., 2003) is caused by parapoxvirus (Buchen Osmond, 2003) producing scabby lesions around the mouth and nostrils (Chan et al., 2017) with more severity in goats than in sheep (Nandi et al., 2011). There is no treatment as it is self limiting, but the use of topical antibacterial agents can promote rapid

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