Incidence of Feather Follicular Cysts in a Pigeon (*Columba Livia*)

A.Shanmuga Sundaram¹, P.Tensingh Gnanaraj, R.Bharathi, P.Pothiappan and B.Nishanth

Instructional Livestock Farm Complex, Tamil Nadu Veterinary and Animal Sciences University, Madhavaram Milk Colony, Chennai – 600 051.

(Received : 22-03-2017  98/17  Accepted : 04-05-2017)

Abstract

The main objective of this study was to report the incidence of Feather Follicular cyst in pigeon (*Columba livia*). A four year old, Rock pigeon (*Columba livia*) was examined in the Animal Science Park unit of Instructional Livestock Farm Complex, Madhavaram Milk Colony, Chennai with the history of swelling on the right wing. On clinical examination elongated 50 mm diameter, irregular, mass seen in the skin of the wing. On palpation, the mass was in soft nature. Fine needle aspiration was done and sent for cytological examination. Based on cytology the case was diagnosed as “Feather Follicular cysts”.

Key words: Rock pigeon, Feather Follicular cysts

Feather follicular cysts are generally the result of trauma to the feather shaft and feather follicle but in the case of canaries its occurs due to abnormally developed feathers. In other birds associated with trauma, malnutrition and viral, bacterial or parasitic infections. (Avery Bennett *et al.*, 2013). The present paper describes about the incidence of Feather Follicular cyst in pigeon (*Columba livia*).

Materials and Methods

Four years old, Rock pigeon (*Columba livia*) was examined in the Animal Science Park, Unit of Instructional Livestock Farm Complex, Madhavaram Milk Colony, Chennai with the history of swelling on the right wing. On clinical examination elongated 50 mm diameter, irregular shaped mass seen in the skin of the wing. On palpation the mass was in soft nature. Fine needle aspiration was done and collected fluid sent for cytological examination.

Results and Discussion

The observed mass elongated 50mm diameter and irregular. The cytology revealed erythrocytes, erythrophagocytosis, mixed-cell inflammation with a marked amount of background debris, multinucleated giant cells and the case was diagnosed as “Feather Follicular cysts”. The mass was differential diagnosed from skin neoplasia, Xanthomatosis, hematoma and abscess. Initially the cyst appears to be softened later it became hard mass due to accumulation of keratin.

Feather cysts usually present as oval or elongated lumps or masses in which a yellow – whitish material (keratin) accumulates. Although these lesions can appear anywhere on the body, they are most commonly found on the wings. Surgery is often indicated to treat these cases. Yvonne *et al.*, (2014).

Occurrence of feather follicular cyst in pigeon is rare. Among pigeon the feather follicular cyst often represents an acquired condition which may be the result of an infection, trauma or other condition that interferes with the normal feather growth. Since the type of feathering is

---

¹Corresponding author: Email: shanmu.vet@gmail.com

---

Fig 1. Elongated 50 mm diameter, irregular cyst seen in the skin of the wing.
inherited, birds with feather cysts should not be used for breeding.

Acknowledgment
The authors would like to thank the Directorate Centre for Animal Production Studies, TANUVAS for their assistance.

References

Influence of Dietary Supplementation of Probiotic on Feed Consumption Pattern of White Pekin Ducks*

K. Shibi Thomas¹ and A. Jalaudeen
Department of Poultry Science, (TANUVAS), Veterinary College and Research Institute, Namakkal-637 002.

(Received : 21-01-2017 34/17 Accepted : 08-05-2017)

Abstract
A study was conducted to find out the effect of dietary supplementation of probiotic (0, 0.025% probiotic and 0.05% probiotic) ‘Livesac’ in White Pekin ducks (Vigova variety) for a period of eight weeks. The feed consumption pattern of the ducks were studied at weekly intervals. The cumulative feed consumption pattern upto six and eight weeks were calculated and the results are presented.

Key words: Probiotics, white Pekin ducks, body weight.

Eventhough the beneficial effects of probiotics in chicken production is well documented its application in duck nutrition in our country is scanty. Therefore the present experiment was carried out to evaluate the effect of supplementation of probiotic on feed consumption pattern of Vigova variety of White Pekin ducks.

Materials and Methods
One hundred and forty four (144) day-old, straight run White Pekin (Vigova variety) ducklings were divided into three groups, each having four replicates of 12 ducklings each. These groups were allotted randomly into three dietary treatments i.e. T1 – standard broiler (control), T2 – control + 250g Livesac (Zeus Biotech Limited, Mysore) / tonne of feed (0.025%) and T3 – control + 500g Livesac / tonne of feed (0.05%).

Ducklings were fed broiler starter mash as per BIS specifications (1992) containing 23 per cent crude protein and 2800 kcal per kg metabolizable energy as the duck starter ration for a period of six weeks. From sixth week onwards broiler finisher mash containing 20 per cent crude protein and 2900 kcal per kg metabolizable energy content was fed as the duck finisher ration and was continued till the end of eight weeks of age.

Feed intake of the birds was recorded replicate wise at the end of each week. Cumulative feed consumption upto six and eight weeks were calculated. The data collected on feed intake were statistically analysed as per the methods described by Snedecor and Cochran (1985).