Bog Spavin and its Management in a Kathiawari Horse

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Abstract

An old Kathiawari gelding with swelling around tibio-tarsal joint and limping of right hind limb was diagnosed Bog Spavin and treated therapeutically with anti-inflammatory drugs and pressure bandage were applied for successful management.

Keywords: Bog spavin; horse; kathiawari

Introduction

Bog Spavin or Tarsal hydrarthrosis or Tarsocrural effusions is a distension of the joint capsule of the tibial articulation as the result of a chronic synovitis. The bog spavin recognized by the three characteristic fluctuating swellings (Gill, 1973). The largest of three swelling is situated antero-internally at the level of the inner lip of trochlea of the astragalus and the two smaller swellings located one on the either side of the posterior surface of the hock joint at the junction of the tibial tarsal and fibular tarsal bones. These swellings vary in size in different cases, when pressure is exerted on any of the swellings it will cause an increase in size of other two swellings (Venugopalan, 2009).

History and Observations

A fourteen years old Kathiawari gelding was brought with complaint of swelling of the tibiotarsal joint of hock and limping of right hind limb for past one month.

Clinical examination revealed distended, soft, fluctuant swelling on the front of the right hock joint, as well as in the medial and lateral plantar pouches. The animal had limping on trotting and pain evinced while palpation. The vital sign parameters such as temperature, pulse and respiratory rate were well within the normal limits.

Diagnosis

Diagnosis of bog spavin was based on the typical clinical appearance, three characteristic fluctuating swellings, the largest of which is located at the dorsomedial aspect of the hock joint. The smaller swellings occasionally occur on either side of the surface of the hock joint at the junction of the tibial tarsal and fibular tarsal bones. (Frank, 2002). Based on the above signs, symptoms and response to a flexion test the case was diagnosed as a bog spavin.

Treatment and Discussion

The animal was treated with Inj. Esgipyrin a 10 ml i/m for five alternate days. From the affected joint around 15 ml of serous fluid was drained with the use of sterile 20 gauge needle and the animal was treated with inj. Methyl prednisolone acetate a total dose of 2ml was injected intra-articularly on the day of presentation and the same injection was repeated after two weeks. Pressure bandage was applied around the hock joint for 14 days. On fifteenth day removal of pressure bandage revealed no fluctuant swelling of the joint and on further examination on 21st day there was no re-occurrence of swelling indicates complete clinical recovery.

The unilateral case is more likely to be sequelae of sprain or chip fractures in the tarsus or ostio chondritis dissecan lesion associated with the

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cranial intermediate ridge of the distal tibia and the lateral trochlear ridge of the tibial tarsal bone. (O'Brien, 1973). Deficiencies of Calcium, Phosphorus, Vitamin A or Vitamin D alone or in any combination apparently can produce bog spavin. Intra articular injection of corticosteroids decrease inflammation of the synovial lining and prevent formation of excess fluid. Best results were observed counter pressure following corticosteroid injection (Van pelt and Riley, 1967; Stashak, 1987). In horses younger than the age of three, most cases of bog spavin are caused by a defect in the tibiotarsal joint while in older, fully-mature horses, it is most likely because of chronic strain of the joint capsule. Infection of the joint causes a severe synovitis, and should be treated as an emergency. Many horses with bog spavin will not be lame. However, bog spavin can be a sign that the horse has joint disease, which is a very significant finding. Usually lameness will occur if the workload of the horse is increased (O'Connor, 2005).

References

Winter Care for Large Animals

Wisconsin Veterinary Medical Association has advised animal owners to pay extra attention and care to their livestock during the winter season. Winter brings cold, blustery weather and large animal have increased shelter requirements during this season. Proper shelters provide comfortable areas for animals to lie down and stay warm. Bedding provides dryness, cushion, insulation and reduces heat loss for the animals. As per reports, the dietary requirements also increase during the winter and need to be compensated. Young calves require dressing blanket or jacket providing them warmth during winter. Veterinarians can also assist in establishing practices to improve animal comfort, well-being and feeding practices.