ENOSCOPOIC RECOGNITION AND MANAGEMENT OF TRICHURIS VULPIS INDUCED COLITIS IN A DOG - A CASE REPORT

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Trichuris vulpis is a relatively common cause of canine large bowel disease. Fecal analysis is negative most of the times because infected animals may show clinical signs before eggs are shed in the faeces due to long prepatent period and eggs may be shed intermittently. This report describes the usefulness of endoscopy in diagnosing the presence of worms. A one year old male German shepherd weighing 23 kg was brought with the history of hematochezia, tenesmus after defection, intermittent vomiting and diarrhoea for past 15 days and was treated by field vet. Animal was active and alert and the physical examination revealed normal vital signs. Faeces were scanty, mucoid and mixed with blood. Haematological investigation revealed anaemia and fecal examination was negative for parasites. Serum biochemistry revealed no changes. Endoscopy was performed under gaseous anaesthesia as per standard protocol. Numerous Trichuris vulpis whipworms were found attached to the colon mucosa. Multiple bleeding ulcerated sites were observed throughout the colon. The dog was treated with oral Febantel, Praziquantel and Pyrantel combination tablets (Drontal Plus @ 1 tablet/kg body weight). Clinical improvement was observed within a week.

Keywords: Hematochezia, tenesmus, colitis, Whipworms, Endoscopy, Treatment