

INCIDENCE OF TRICHOBEZOAR IN SHEEP

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Abstract: A four years old Mecheri breed of ram presented with history of gradual off feed maintained in an organised farm. On clinical examination of the ram revealed dullness, dehydration, scanty faeces and slight distension of the abdomen at paralumbar fossa. After three days of treatment the ram was died. Post mortem examination of the ram revealed presence of six numbers of hair balls in the abomasal contents. Trichobezoar occurred as a result of mange infestation and or/ vice due to boredom as a result of confinement.

Keywords: Abnormal behavior, Feed grit size, Hair – plucking.

INTRODUCTION

Trichobezoar is a concretion form of hairs found in the gastrointestinal tract of animals due to frequent ingestion of hair as a result of wool plucking. This is an abnormal behaviour in sheep which seems to occurs as a result of lice or mange infestation (Anderson and Rings, 2009), confined in an artificial environment (Reinhardt, 2005) and trace element deficiencies, in particular copper, zinc cobalt, calcium, phosphorus, sodium chloride, manganese, as well as vitamin or a protein deficiency (Akgul *et al* 2000; Youde and Huaitao 2001; Meyer and Lohse 2002). Ingested hairs become balled-up in the rumen due to rumen motility and may pass into the intestinal tract and cause obstruction. This paper report a case of trichobezoar in ram maintained under intensive system of management.

CASE HISTORY AND CLINICAL FINDINGS

A four years old Mecheri breed of ram presented with history of gradual off feed maintained in an organised farm. Clinical examination of the ram revealed all physiological parameters (heart rate, respiration rate and rectal temperature) was normal. However, ram showed dullness, dehydration, scanty faeces and slight distension of the abdomen at paralumbar fossa. Some animals in the same flock were seen to be loosing hair and others were seen to repeatedly bite off the hair from other sheep or their own bodies. Faecal sample and skin scrapping were collected from the affected ram and screened for the presence of endo and

ectoparasites respectively. No helminth ova could be detected in the faecal analysis but few coccidian oocysts were detected. *Psoroptes* sp. mites were detected in the skin scrapping. The ram was treated with ruminototics, multivitamin and intravenous infusion of fluids.

POST MORTEM FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

After three days of treatment the ram was died. Post mortem examination of the ram revealed presence of six numbers of hair balls in the abomasal contents (Figs. 1 and 2). Presence of hair balls might cause obstruction in the pyloric opening and interfere the passage of ingestion (Fromsa and Mohammed, 2011, Mohajeri *et al.*, 2012 and omidi *et al.*, 2012). Formation of hair balls in the gastrointestinal tract of animal might be due wool plucking as a result of mange infestation and or/ vice due to boredom as a result of confinement. Chiezey *et al.* (2010) also reported that parasites, toxic agents, metabolic disorders, and nutritional insufficiencies are important factors in the aetiology of alopecia in sheep.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, when sheep have to be held indoors, the animal should be routinely checked for parasitic infestations and nutritional deficiencies in order to prevent the trichobezoar as a result of wool plucking.

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Fig. 1: Abomasal content along with hair balls



Fig. 2: Recovered hair balls (six numbers)