MANAGEMENT OF IRREGULAR SHARP MOLARS IN A BUFFALO – A CASE REPORT

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ABSTRACT

A four year old Graded Murrah Buffalo was presented with a history of bilateral distension of cheeks, persistent salivation and occasional quidding since one year. Physical examination revealed asymmetrical hard bulge of the both cheeks which was pitting on pressure. Upon oral examination noticed abnormal accumulation of feed material on either side of the cheeks, ulcerative lesions in oral mucosa and irregular sharp molars. The impacted material from both the sides of buccal cavity was removed and irrigated with potassium permanganate solution. The irregular sharp edges of the teeth were rasped by tooth rasp manually to level the teeth, resulting in complete recovery.

Keywords: Murrah buffalo, sharp molars, tooth rasp, teeth

INTRODUCTION

Affections of irregular and sharp molar teeth is the most common clinical condition in cattle and buffaloes (Tyagi and Singh, 2013). Usually, clinical manifestation of overgrown molar

teeth occurs as quidding, bulging of the cheeks due to impaction of the food material and salivation. Present report puts on record a case of overgrown sharp molar teeth and its management in a graded Murrah buffalo

CASE HISTORY AND CLINICAL OBSERVATIONS

A four year old, graded Murrah buffalo was presented to the Teaching Veterinary Clinical Complex with a history of bilateral distension of cheeks since one year with persistent salivation and occasional quidding. The animal was anorectic with decreased water intake since a week. All the vital parameters were within normal range with mild dehydration. Physical examination revealed hard bulge of the both cheeks, which was asymmetrical and pitting on pressure.

Needle aspiration revealed presence of greenish colour fluid resembling rumen fluid of neutral pH. Examination of oral cavity revealed abnormal accumulation of feed material on either sides of the cheeks (Figure 1), with ulcerative lesions in the oral mucosa and irregular sharp molars. All laboratory findings were within

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Figure 1. Photograph showing abnormal accumulation of feed material in cheeks.



Figure 2. Photograph showing tooth rasping of overgrown molars.



Figure 3. Photograph showing recovery after treatment.

normal range. Based on the findings, the case was diagnosed as feed accumulation in the cheeks due to irregular sharp molars.

TREATMENT

By physical restraint, the mouth was opened and the impacted food material was removed with a long forceps from both the sides of buccal cavity and irrigation of oral cavity was done with potassium permanganate solution. The irregular sharp edges of the teeth were rasped by firm and controlled strokes of the tooth rasp until a uniform level of the molar teeth was obtained (Figure 2). Dehydration was corrected with injection Dextrose Normal Saline 25 ml/kg body weight intravenously. The animal was supplemented with rumenotorics to improve the feed intake and was advised semi solid diet like gruel and semi cooked cereals until complete recovery. The oral mucosa was painted with boroglycerine paste.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

After 10 days of the treatment, the animal started taking feed normally and water and made an uneventful recovery (Figure 3). Irregular and sharp molars are the common condition which hampers the mastication and cause simple indigestion in animals. Usually last molars are more predisposed, outer edges of upper molars and inner edges of lower molars become sharp, such animals usually throw feed material and salivation as observed in the present case. (Dollar, 1958).

The condition can be diagnosed by detailed oral examination and tooth rasping can effectively reduce the sharp edges.

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