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Clinical Article

UNUSUAL OCULAR FOREIGN BODY IN A HOUND DOG-A CASE REPORT

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SUMMARY

The present case discuss about the surgical removal of an unusual ocular foreign body from a dog. A two year male Chippiparai was brought to the Veterinary Clinical Complex, Tirunelveli with the history of excessive tears in the left eye since two days after it returned from hunting. Clinical examination of the left eye revealed epiphora, chemosis and blepharospam. Under general anaesthesia, examination of left eye revealed a hard structure in the conjunctival fornix. Upon retrieval, it was found to be a bamboo blade. Tarsorrhaphy was done using silk. Post operative eye drops were prescribed. The dog recovered uneventfully without loss of vision.

Keywords: Bamboo blade, Dog, Foreign body, Ocular, Chippiparai

Ocular injuries due to accidental contact with plant foreign bodies such as cactus spines, rose thorns, grass awn etc are most commonly seen in dogs or cats (Brennan and Ihrke, 1983, Dean, 2004) Other foreign bodies include plastic, glass, pellets, bristles, thorns, small stones and popcorn kernels. Foreign bodies may affect either the corneoscleral surface or the bulbar fornix behind the eyelid or third eyelid. Minor injuries may heal without treatment by formation of scar tissue which can lead to decreased vision. More serious injuries may require surgery.

A two year old male Chippiparai (native breed of Tamilnadu) weighing around 25kg was brought to the Veterinary Clinical Complex, Tirunelveli with the history of watery discharge, half closed left eye since two days after it came from hunting. Owner suspected that some (foreign) body might had come in contact with the eye while chasing the rabbit. Examination of the ocular sinister (OS) revealed epiphora, blepharospam and chemosis (Fig. 1). Animal was not cooperative for ocular examination as it was in severe pain.

Under Xylazine @ 1 mg/kg b.w I/M and Ketamine @ 5 mg/kg b.w I/V general anaesthesia, ocular examination revealed a hard structure in the lower eyelid palpebral conjunctiva deep into the fornix. Cornea was clear and transparent, sclera was slightly congested. Upon retrieval of the foreign body from the fornix, it was found to be a bamboo blade (Fig. 2 & 3). Eye was lavaged with 0.5 ml of normal saline. Temporary tarsorrhaphy was done using silk1-0 (Fig. 4). Post operative eye drops Higati (Gatifloxicin), Penfen (Flurbiprofen) and Systemic broad-spectrum antibiotic, Amoxicillin @ 15mg/ kg b.w. P/O b.i.d for 5 days were prescribed. Suture was removed after 10 days. Ocular examination after 10 days revealed positive reflex for menace, pupillary light reflex, cotton ball test.

Hunting and working dog breeds are prone for

Fig. 1. Chemosis, epiphora

Fig. 2. Retrieval of Bamboo blade

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Fig. 3. Bamboo blade

Fig. 4. Temporary Tarsorraphy

increased contact with plant foreign body such as grass awn (Brennan and Ihrke, 1983). This coincides with the present case, Chippiparai are native hound breeds of southern part of Tamilnadu known for athletic skill and rabbit hunting. Ocular plant foreign body mainly reported were grass awn, cactus spine etc (Marchegiani *et al.,* 2017). In the present case. it was a blade from the branch node of the bamboo tree. Ocular foreign body usually gets lodged in cornea or conjunctiva or bulbar fornix. This is in accordance to our present report wherein the foreign body was lodged in the conjunctival fornix without damaging the cornea. Unilateral ocular discharge, acute pain, blepharospasm, chemosis were the signs noticed in the present case.

Prognosis of the ocular reaction to foreign bodies is variable depending on the size, composition, localization, degree of anterior or posterior segment penetration and mechanical irritation (Tovar *et al.,* 2005). In this case, since there is no damage to the eyeball, the ocular reaction was mimimal restricted to conjunctiva.

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