

CLEFT PALATE IN A LAMB - A CASE REPROT

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ABSTRACT:

The present communication reports the clinical findings and necropsy in a case of congenital cleft palate in a lamb.

KEY WORDS: cleft palate, palatoschisis, lamb

INTRODUCTION

Cleft palate is failure of closure of hard or hard and soft palates along the roof of the mouth, it may occur alone or in combination with cleft lip. Defective closure results in communication between oral and nasal cavities. The cause is often undetermined and the disorder is uncommon in lambs (Ramesh *et al.*, 2007). The present communication reports bilateral cleft palate in a female non-descript lamb.

CASE HISTORY AND CLINICAL FINDINGS

A five days old non-descript female lamb that was weak and unable to swallow milk was brought to the Veterinary Dispensary. Clinical examination revealed cleft palate with milk escaping through the nostrils upon suckling (Fig. 1). Auscultation revealed moist rales. Surgical correction was not attempted due to economic reasons.



Fig 1: Cleft Palate in a Lamb

POSTMORTEM FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

The lamb died within 48 hours of admission. Necropsy was performed, which revealed bilateral failure of fusion of the palate and lesions of aspiration pneumonia. Based on necropsy findings it was assumed that the lamb had died of pneumonia and its complication due to aspiration of the milk through the nostrils as opined by Ramesh *et al.* (2007).

As the incidence of this condition is sporadic the occurrence is attributed to mechanical obstruction by the tongue with decreased movements between the palantine shelves at the time of programmed palate closure and it may also be due to pregnant ewes being exposed to teratogenic alkaloids (Ramesh *et al.*, 2007 and Panter *et al.*, 1985). The pregnant ewe in the present report was reared as a free range animal in a migratory flock, hence the possibility of ingesting teratogenic plants could not be ruled out.

REFERENCES:

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