In uterine foetal death in a mixed-breed cat

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ABSTRACT: Examination of pet animals is often performed by animal owners for the prevention and treatment of animals, one of which is a reproductive disorder. This case study aimed to evaluate foetal death in a mixed-breed cat. The female cat named Kuro was brought by her owner to the clinic with complaints of red discharge from her vulva for five days. Physical examination revealed enlargement of the mesogastric area, enlarged nipples, and no abnormalities in the urinary bladder. Radiographic investigations were performed at the previous clinic and ultrasonography was performed at the Bobon and Vet animal clinic. Radiographic results showed a mass located under the urinary bladder, while ultrasonography showed that the two foetuses were not moving and there was no heartbeat. Based on the results of the examinations and clinical symptoms, Kuro experienced the foetal death in the womb, then an ovario-hysterectomy was performed, and post-operative therapy was administered in the form of antibiotics, anti-inflammatories, and topical preparations for healing incision wounds.

Keywords:
feotal death, in uterine, cat, ovariohysterectomy

■ INTRODUCTION

Cats are mammals used as pets because of their various attractions. As beloved pets, cat-owners often take their pets to clinics or animal hospitals to check their cats' health (Putri et al. 2020). One of the clinical examinations that can be performed is pregnancy examination. The average gestational age of domestic cats is 65.6 days with a gestation length range of 52-74 days (Kustritz 2006). Pregnancy can result in normal parturition or abortion which can be caused by infectious or noninfectious agents (Verstegen et al. 2008). The incidence of foetal death in cats is very rarely reported; generally, it is immediately treated by a veterinarian with ovariohysterectomy. This case study aimed to evaluate foetal mortality in mixed-breed cats.

■ CASE

Signalement: Kuro, a black female mixed-breed cat with body weight of 3.2 kg. History: Kuro was taken by his owner to the Bobon and Vet Clinic with complaints of bloody discharge from his vulva for five days. Three weeks earlier, Kuro had been vaccinated. Based on the owner's statement, Kuro's urination did not change, with the colour of the urine being clear. Kuro received a referral from the previous clinic and was advised to do an abdominal radiography. Clinical Symptoms: The cat's weight is 3.2 kg and had a rectal temperature of 38.5 °C. A cloudy red discharge was observed in the vulvar area. Supporting Examinations: Kuro underwent a radiographic examination (Figure 1A) and ultrasonography (Figure 1B). Diagnoses: Foetal death. Prognosis: Fausta. Therapy: Ovariohysterectomy was performed (Figure 1C, D).

■ RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Kuro was taken by her owner to the clinic with complaints of red discharge on her vulva. Vaginal discharge in the form of blood can be caused by many factors and can occur in both the urinary tract and reproductive tract of cats. Disorders of the urinary tract include urinary tract infections, the presence of stones or crystals in the urinary tract, cystitis, and tumours (Popa et al. 2017). Meanwhile, in the repro
The postoperative therapy was a combination of the antibio-
nique allows for a wider incision, minimises bleeding, and
conditions (Babu et al. 2018). The midline laparotomy technique is bet-
hysterectomy in cats uses laparotomy at the midline of the
hormone prostaglandin (Briles & Evans 1982). Ovario-
with the foetus or by stimulating foetal expulsion using the
ovariohysterectomy to remove the ovaries and uterus along
such as decreased abdominal circumference, vomiting
and/or diarrhoea, decreased appetite, depression, dehydra-
tion, and fever (Verstegen et al. 2008). In addition, dis-
charge in the form of blood or purulent discharge, as well as a
t tense stomach and uncomfortable conditions can also be
seen. The clinical symptoms found in Kuro are red blood
cell discharges. Further, foetal death and pregnancy loss can
be caused by infectious or non-infectious causes (Verstegen et al. 2008). Viral infections that often cause foetal death
include feline herpesvirus, feline immunodeficiency virus (FIV), feline infectious peritonitis virus (FIP), and feline panleukopenia virus (FPV). Bacterial infections are generally caused by Salmonella spp., Chlamydia sp., and Brucella sp. It is caused by a pro-
tozoan infection, Toxoplasma gondii. Abortions due to non-
infectious causes include hormonal disorders, drug toxicity,
nutritional deficiencies, stress, trauma, and systemic diseases (Tilley & Francis 2011).

Treatment for foetal death in cats can be in the form of
ovariohysterectomy to remove the ovaries and uterus along
with the foetus or by stimulating foetal expulsion using the
hormone prostaglandin (Briles & Evans 1982). Ovarto-
hysterectomy in cats uses laparotomy at the midline of the
ventral abdomen. The midline laparotomy technique is bet-
ter used when treating patients with pathological uterine
conditions (Babu et al. 2018). The midline incision tech-
nique allows for a wider incision, minimises bleeding, and
facilitates expulsion of both uteri (Murugesan et al. 2020).
The postoperative therapy was a combination of the antibio-
tics amoxicillin and clavulanic acid 20 mg/kg BW BID, methyl prednisolone 1 mg/kg BW SID, and bioplacenton gel. Postoperative treatment was performed for three days
with the incision wound dry, clean, and without complica-
tions.

The causative diagnosis of foetal death that occurred in
Kuro could not be determined. This was because no further
examinations were performed. Apart from that, Kuro did
not show general symptoms that occur due to infectious
diseases or a history of drug administration that could cause
foetal death.

■ CONCLUSION

The cat was diagnosed with foetal death in the uterus based
on anamnesis, physical examination, and supporting radio-
graphic and ultrasonographic examinations. The patient
underwent ovariohysterectomy.

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