



A Monthly e Magazine
ISSN:2583-2212

Sept, 2023; 3(09), 2467-2468

Popular Article

Indolent Ulcer in Cats

Varsha Mary Mathai^{1*} and Sherin B. Sarangom¹

¹Veterinary Surgeon

District Veterinary Centre, Kannur, Kerala, India - 670 001

<https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.8395604>

Feline indolent ulcers, also known as rodent ulcers or eosinophilic ulcers, are common dermatological conditions affecting cats. Only a few authors have reported the condition in dogs (Kim *et al.* 2010). It is a condition included among Eosinophilic Granuloma Complex which also includes two other forms, the eosinophilic plaque and eosinophilic granuloma. Manning *et al.* (1987) has reported the coexistence of all the three forms in one animal. The presentation of lesions are either unilateral or bilaterally symmetrical or asymmetrical and usually occur on the upper lip close to the philtrum. They also appear on other parts of the body. The ulcers are painless, non-pruritic and usually associated with submandibular lymphadenopathy. They are depressed, reddish, circumscribed lesions with raised borders. In some cases, ulcers are preceded by swollen lips.

Several underlying factors are identified that lead to eosinophilic ulcers including flea bite hypersensitivity, food allergy, atopy and insect bite hypersensitivity (Leistra *et al.*, 2005). Power and Ihrke (1995) have also proposed a genetic cause for the condition. The lesion must be differentiated from other conditions such as squamous cell carcinoma, herpes virus infection, lymphoma and mast cell tumours (Miller *et al.* 2013). Oncogenic transformation and progression of indolent ulcer into fibrosarcoma and squamous cell carcinoma has also been reported (Manning *et al.* 1987). Cytological examination reveals predominance of eosinophils with or without the presence of neutrophils. Epidermal hyperplasia with eosinophilic infiltration of dermis on histopathological evaluation is highly confirmatory of the condition (Miller *et al.* 2013). Diagnostic workup is also aimed at addressing the primary cause of the condition. Hence tests such as dietary trial, intra-dermal allergy testing, identification of fleas, flea dirt are also performed. Therapeutic protocol includes anti-inflammatory drugs, corticosteroids and antibiotics along with controlling the underlying cause of the condition.



Fig 1a. Depressed, circumscribed ulcer with raised borders close to the philtrum; b. Predominance of eosinophils on cytology

Acknowledgement

The authors are thankful to the Director, Animal Husbandry Department, Kerala and the District Animal Husbandry Officer, Kannur, Kerala for providing facilities for the study.

Reference

- Kim, J. H., Jung, J. Y., Kang, S. C., Lee, Y. R., Lee, J. Y., Hwang, E. K. and Woo, G. H. (2011). Eosinophilic granulomas in two dogs. *Korean J. Vet. Res.*, 51(1): 69-72.
- Leistra, W. H. G., Van Oost, B. A., and Willemse, T. (2005). Non-pruritic granuloma in Norwegian forest cats. *Vet. Rec.*, 156(18): 575-577.
- Manning, T.O., Crane, S.W., Scheidt, V.J. and Osuna, D.J. (1987). Three cases of feline eosinophilic granuloma complex (eosinophilic ulcer) and observations on laser therapy. *Sem. Vet. Med. Surg.*, 2: 206-211.
- Muller, M. W. (2013). *Kirk's Small Animal Dermatology* (ed. Miller, W.H., Griffin, C.E. and Campbell, K.L.), 7th ed., St. Louis, Missouri, p: 844
- Power, H. T. and Ihrke, P. J. (1995). Selected feline eosinophilic skin diseases. *Vet. Clin. North Am.*, 25(4): 833-850.

