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Popular Article

Necropsy Procedures and its Interpretations Postmortem report of Calf

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Introduction

Necropsy of animal carcasses helps in diagnosis of diseases and ultimately their control. It is said “Necropsy is the message of wisdom from dead to living”. It includes systemic examination of dead animal, recording of gross pathological lesions, and their correlation with history to make diagnosis of disease. Sometimes, it is difficult to make any conclusive diagnosis merely on the basis of postmortem examinations. In such situation material is to be collected for further laboratory analysis such as histopathology, microbiology, parasitology and toxicology for confirmation of the cause of disease. Necropsy is an integral part of disease investigation. Therefore, veterinarian must have the basic knowledge of postmortem techniques, recording of lesions, interpretation of lesion, collection of proper and best material for laboratory examination. Necropsy is perhaps the sole diagnostic technique available to veterinarian to find out the cause of death of the animals and as it is well known that the control measures for their effectiveness depend upon a correct and reliable diagnosis. Postmortem examination reveals the distribution and texture of lesions, including one or more morphologic patterns of disease and thereby suggesting causes of disease and providing tissues for confirmatory testing. To be relevant, the animals examined must be representative of the clinical problem, early in the disease, and untreated if possible ; the multiple analyzed should focus on primary lesions but represent the spectrum of changes observed



A 130 days old carcass of female calf was presented to Department of Veterinary Clinical Complex, Arawali Veterinary College Sikar, for postmortem examination. Animal had a history of illness since five days and showed clinical signs such as anorexia, yellowish watery diarrhoea. It was treated accordingly but died without any response to the treated drugs. During postmortem examination the detailed gross lesions were recorded. Faecal sample and pieces of tissues from lungs, heart, liver, spleen, kidneys and intestine were collected. Tissue samples were fixed in 10% neutral buffered formalin.

Animal Details:

- | | | | |
|-----------------------------|------------|-------------|-------------------|
| 1. Type of the animal: Calf | 4. Tag No. | : 119 | |
| 2. Sex | : Female | 5. Symptoms | : Under treatment |
| 3. Dam No. | : 85 | | |

Post-mortem observations:

- Emaciated body condition.
- Severe tick infestation on the body.
- Visible mucous membrane was pale.
- Subcutaneous tissue was pale.
- On opening of the carcass fat showed gelatinization and watery blood.
- Abomasal mucosa was severely congested.
- Rumen was fully impacted with food material, which was dry in nature and one phytobezoar was observed.
- Liver showed slightly patchy necrotic area over the surface.
- Spleen – Pale in appearance.
- Both kidneys were congested.
- Catarrhal enteritis was seen in intestinal mucosa.
- Heart showed epicardial haemorrhages.
- Both the lungs were emphysematous with areas of congestion.
- Tracheal mucosa was congested.



Post-mortem diagnosis : Suggestive of severe anaemia



Fig 1 External appearance of carcass: Rough hair coat. Emaciated body



Fig 2 Pale conjunctival mucous membrane on



Fig 3 Severe tick infestation seen on the body of the carcass.



Fig 4 On opening of the carcass during post-mortem subcutaneous tissue was observed pale.

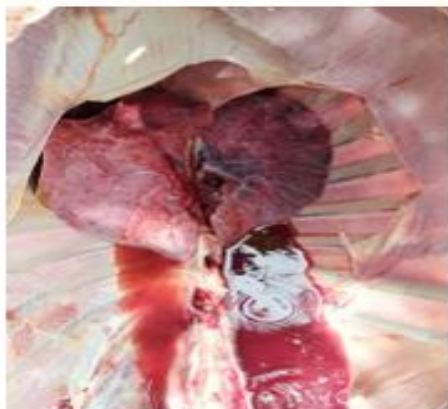


Fig 5 Areas of congestion seen in the and lungs.



Fig 6 Lung showing areas of congestion Presence of watery blood in the thoracic cavity. emphysematous condition.





Fig 7 Epicardial haemorrhages seen over the surface of heart.



Fig 8 Abdominal cavity showing congestion of omasal and abomasal mucosa.



Fig 9 Abomasal mucosa showing severe congestion. material. rumen.



Fig 10 Rumen fully impacted with food
Presence of one phytobezoar in





Fig 11 Phytobezoar removed from the rumen of carcass.

Conclusion Pathologic and laboratory investigations are necessary in situations in which a specific diagnosis or identification of the cause is required. On the basis of Post-mortem diagnosis: The cause of death due to severe anaemia.

