

SHORT NOTES

CONGENITAL SCROTAL HERNIA IN A RAM

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Scrotal hernia is commonly seen in horses and pigs and is less common in bulls and rams. (Roberts 1971). In domestic animals this hernia is considered to be a hereditary defect. Noordsy (1966) reported, that in cattle left sided scrotal hernias were common in the Hereford or Polled Hereford breeds. Orr (1956) described the scrotal hernia in black face rams. He considered that in addition to a Hereditary trait, trauma, caused by the fierce head on collisions of opposing tups, with resultant great increase in their intra-abdominal pressure, was responsible. A 4 month old lamb was presented with a markedly enlarged scrotum between the thighs. On enquiry it was found that hernia was present at the time of birth and gradually became



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marked within 4 months of postnatal existence. Hernia did not appear to cause any in-convenience to the patient. The weight of the hernial contents disfigured the contour of the scrotum and caused elongation of the scrotal sac. (Fig. 1). This is the first record of congenital scrotal hernia in rams in Pakistan.

Surgical exploration revealed unilateral hernia extending into the left half of the scrotum. The hernial contents consisted of a considerable length of the small intestine. There was no sign of strangulation. On dissection a large inguinal ring and a voluminous vaginal sac were present. Scrotal herniectomy in conjunction with castration was performed and the animal recovered without showing any untoward sequelae.

It is suggested that a case of scrotal hernia should be treated as a surgical emergency, as strangulation of the hernial contents can occur readily in the narrow confines of the spermatic cord. Since this affection appears to be hereditary in origin, such animals should not be bred from, and after surgical correction may be fattened for slaughter.

LITERATURE CITED

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