IDIOPATHIC VAGAL INDIGESTION IN MINI-COWS: REPORT OF FIVE CASES

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Mini-animals are frequent in areas with a prevalence of small farms in Brazil. Usually, these animals are raised as pets. This paper aims to report the occurrence of idiopathic vagal indigestion in mini cattle in the Federal District, Brasilia, Brazil. Between the years 2005 to 2010, five mini cattle, including one male and four females, with similar history and clinical signs were examined at the Veterinary Hospital of the University of Brasilia, Brazil. All animals aged between eight months and one year old. They showed bloat, without signs of obstruction or history of being fed with a diet rich in carbohydrates. Large amounts of gas with aromatic odor and normal rumenal fluid were obtained by oro-rumenal probe. After probing, the animals returned to regular food ingestion with good quality fiber and water at will, returning the bloat around two hours later. Surgical treatment, with placement of a rumenal cannula, using a two stages technique was chosen. After sedation and paravertebral regional block, a incision of skin, subcutaneous tissue and muscle was performed in the left paralumbar fossa, followed by the rumenopexy, observing the diameter of the cannula to be placed. As postoperative medication benzathine penicillin (40,000 IU / kg) and flunixin meglumine (2.2 mg.kg⁻¹) were administered. Seven days after rumenopexy, the rumenostomy and placement of the cannula were performed. After the second stage of the surgery the animals were discharged. Two animals died two years after the procedure, for various reasons and the other three animals are in good health. It is not known the cause of indigestion, but is believed to have hereditary nature, since there is a kinship between these animals. Besides, other anomalous features were observed as members deformities. The placement of the rumenal cannula was the only treatment alternative for these animals. No adverse effects were observed after treatment.