

1951

Intestinal Obstruction in a Chinchilla

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cal tissues; they extended along the right side of the thoraco-abdominal wall and continued down the right hind leg. There were comminuted fractures of the right tibia and fibula. The trauma was very extensive throughout the body.

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Intestinal Obstruction in a Chinchilla. A 9-month-old female Chinchilla was admitted to Stange Memorial Clinic, Friday, Feb. 12, 1951, with a history of constipation.

The animal had been purchased shortly before being presented for treatment so little information of dietetic error could be given by the owner. The animal had suffered an environmental change, however, in being taken off wire mesh screen and placed on sawdust litter. A diagnosis of obstipation was confirmed when a fluoroscopic examination revealed a large compact fecal mass in the digestive tract.

It was decided that the fecolith could be macerated and broken up by intro-

ducing liberal quantities of fluid per rectum. This was attempted in a manner similar to the intestinal lavage so commonly used in the dog. No positive results were noted from the intestinal irrigation, however, so the patient was returned to its cage.

The following morning the animal was found dead, and necropsy examination revealed a dehydrated, firm, fecal obstruction in the posterior portion of the ileum. The wall of the affected intestine was hyperemic, hemorrhagic and necrotic. Anterior to the obstruction a typhloenteric condition was noted. Three normal fetuses were present in the uterus.

This case is interesting because it illustrates a type of digestive ill which may result from a sudden change in feeding schedule, ration or environment. In disorders like these the Chinchilla breeder looks to the veterinarian for aid. It is certain that as Chinchilla numbers increase the demand for this type of professional service will also increase.

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