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Cystic Calculi in a 12-Year-Old Bitch

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Cystic Calculi in a 12-year Old Bitch. On Nov. 3, 1957, a 12-year old, spayed, Toy Collie bitch was admitted to the Stange Memorial Clinic. A history of frequent urination, which produced only a few drops of urine, was given. Also, the dog was mildly depressed and anorexic but showed no vomition. Upon abdominal palpation the urinary bladder was found to be greatly distended; firm objects could be felt that produced a gritting sensation when they moved against each other. A diagnosis of cystic calculi was made.

Urine and blood samples were taken to the clinical laboratory. The urine was alkaline, pH 7.5. The trace of albumin found and a blood urea of 56 mg. could indicate a mild chronic nephritis. The white blood cell count was normal.

Surgical removal of the calculi was undertaken. It was decided that ether would be the safest anesthetic, because of the dog’s age and the kidney condition. The operative site was clipped, shaved, scrubbed and disinfected with phenyl-mercuric. A 3 to 4-inch incision was made on the ventral midline starting ½ inch behind the brim of the pelvis and extending anteriorly. The bladder was brought out through the incision and packed off with sterile towels in order to prevent contamination of the peritoneal cavity with urine. The bladder was incised on a non-vascular area of the dorsal apex. Forceps were used to grasp the calculi which numbered eight. They ranged in size from that of a marble to a walnut (see photo). The bladder incision was closed using the Lambert method with 00 catgut and an atraumatic needle. A double row of sutures was used to insure complete sealing of the bladder. The peritoneum was closed with interrupted 00 catgut sutures. The rectus sheath was closed with 00 catgut in a continuous stitch. A subcutaneous stitch of 00 catgut was used in view of the fact that the healing process in an aged dog is slower. The skin incision was sutured with interrupted mattress sutures of Vetafil® (synthetic suture material, Bengen & Co., Hanover, West Germany).

Postoperative care consisted of 1 cc. of penicillin-streptomycin intramuscularly b.i.d. for 4 days. The dog did not regain its appetite for several days following surgery, so on the third day 150 cc. of dextrose with 0.5 cc. of soluble B-vitamins was given subcutaneously. Other than this, recovery was uneventful.
The removed cystic calculi.

The dog was placed on chlorethamine tablets in an effort to acidify the urine in order to prevent the formation of more calculi. A urine sample taken after 7 days of this therapy showed a pH of 5.5.

The dog was dismissed on Nov. 16, 1957. A 30-day supply of chlorethamine tablets was dispensed. Instructions to the owner were to feed a meat diet and give one chlorethamine tablet daily. It is thought that if the urine can be kept acidic, the calculi will not reform.

— Don Smith '58

Bad Teeth, Malnutrition and Pregnancy Disease. Once again it is that time of year when the sheep men suffer their losses from the condition known as “Pregnancy Disease.” It is a good guess that many veterinarians are or will be hearing and seeing cases similar to the following one recently presented to the Stange Memorial Clinic.

On Dec. 30, 1957, two ewes were brought to the clinic. The owner suspected poisoning. He stated that the only change in management was the addition of silage to the ration 1 week previously. Three ewes had died and these two were sick. The sheep had access to hog houses which had been painted last summer. He stated that the sheep went down and were apparently blind.

The post-mortem diagnosis was malnutrition and emaciation of aged sheep. Five of the incisors were missing as well as half of the cheek teeth. There was also pneumonia in the ventral portions of the cardiac and apical lobes of the lungs and calcified lesions in the liver. The ewe was in early pregnancy.

It was suggested that the owner contact his veterinarian and between them work up a fortified ration that would be highly nutritious and easily digestible.

Two weeks later, Jan. 13, 1958, the owner brought in three more ewes. Deaths were still occurring and 12 percent of the flock had died. The history this time was that some of the ewes seemed a little stiff and slow in getting up. They moved with some incoordination as though partially paralyzed and a few circled before they went down, became comatose and died.

One of the three ewes presented was immediately taken to post-mortem. The findings were pregnancy disease with severe fatty infiltration of the liver and extensively worn teeth. The remaining incisors were short and loose. Several check teeth were missing and those present were