1950

Inguinal Hernia In A Shorthorn Bull.

Claude Pfow  
*Iowa State College*

Robin Hacecky  
*Iowa State College*

Follow this and additional works at: [https://lib.dr.iastate.edu/iowastate_veterinarian](https://lib.dr.iastate.edu/iowastate_veterinarian)

Part of the [Large or Food Animal and Equine Medicine Commons](https://lib.dr.iastate.edu/iowastate_veterinarian), and the [Veterinary Physiology Commons](https://lib.dr.iastate.edu/iowastate_veterinarian)

Recommended Citation

Pfow, Claude and Hacecky, Robin (1950) "Inguinal Hernia In A Shorthorn Bull.," *Iowa State University Veterinarian*: Vol. 12 : Iss. 1 , Article 12.  
Available at: [https://lib.dr.iastate.edu/iowastate_veterinarian/vol12/iss1/12](https://lib.dr.iastate.edu/iowastate_veterinarian/vol12/iss1/12)

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Journals at Iowa State University Digital Repository. It has been accepted for inclusion in *Iowa State University Veterinarian* by an authorized editor of *Iowa State University Digital Repository*. For more information, please contact [digirep@iastate.edu](mailto:digirep@iastate.edu).
probably result as consequence of the healing process.

The horse was returned to a box stall following the operation and sulfanilamide packs were renewed every other day. This treatment was continued for a period of three weeks. The patient was discharged on July 8, 1949.

As no further word has been received concerning this horse, it is assumed that there has been no recurrence of the fibroma.

Eugene Whitford, '52

Inguinal Hernia In A Shorthorn Bull. On Oct. 11, 1949, a 4-year-old Shorthorn Bull was referred to Stange Memorial Clinic.

An accompanying letter from the attending veterinarian stated that for several days the animal had shown signs of intermittent colic by kicking at his abdomen for short periods, inappetence, and general depression.

Examination revealed a large, rather firm swelling in the left side of the scrotum. The animal appeared depressed and the feces evacuated were tarry. Laboratory examinations revealed that there was blood in the feces. The pulse rate was 125, respiratory rate 40 and the temperature 101.4°F.

A tentative diagnosis of scrotal hernia was made and confirmed by rectal examination.

It was then decided that a laparotomy be made to attempt to relieve the hernia. The patient was put in the stocks and an area in the left paralumbar fossa was washed, shaved and disinfected with strong tincture of iodine. Anesthesia was accomplished by 80 cc. of 4 percent procaine hydrochloride solution injected into the skin and underlying tissues in the immediate area where the incision would be made. An incision approximately 6 in. long was made through the tissues of the paralumbar fossa beginning just below the lateral processes of the lumbar vertebrae and extending ventrally. The left hand of the surgeon was passed into the peritoneal cavity. An attempt was made to break down the adhesions between the intestines and the internal inguinal ring and canal, without injuring the intestines, so the internal mass could be returned to the abdominal cavity intact. Due to the size of the mass and the fact that the intestines felt somewhat friable, and in all probability would break if more traction were placed on them, it was decided that reduction was impossible and any further attempt to reduce it might be fatal to the animal. The peritoneum was closed with a continuous suture using No. 4 catgut. The internal and external abdominal oblique muscles were brought in opposition with No. 4 chromic catgut using a continuous suture. The skin incision was closed with a mattress suture using ½ in. umbilical tape. Liquid Biop was applied over the area of incision and the animal was returned to the stall.

The owner was advised of the situation. He requested that further attempts be made to reduce the hernia, as the breeding value of the bull was much greater than the salvage value.

The next day the animal was again placed in the stocks, the sutures removed and the incision lengthened to allow the
passage of both hands into the peritoneal cavity. The inguinal ring was enlarged to permit passage of the operator's hand through the canal into the scrotum and more adhesions were broken down. Traction on the herniated loop of the intestine resulted in the tearing of a weakened gangrenous portion of the intestine. Further attempts at reduction were discontinued. The abdominal incision was closed as before and the animal was led to the autopsy laboratory where euthanasia was performed.

![Fig. 6. The intestinal mass within the scrotum.](image)

Post mortem study conducted on Oct. 13, 1949, revealed an incarcerated scrotal hernia involving the terminal 6 or 8 feet of the small intestine about 2 feet anterior to the ileo-cecal junction. A coil of intestine had slipped through a 4 inch ring. The coil of herniated intestine was cyanotic and edematous. The intestine contained a large quantity of hemorrhagic transudate. Peritonitis was noted around the left inguinal canal and adhesions of the coil to the inguinal wall were extensive. In this portion of the intestine friability and necrosis were especially noted. Other pathological conditions present were subepicardial and endocardial hemorrhages. The liver and kidneys revealed post mortem decomposition.

Although this is not a common condition in the bovine species, attention is called to the rapidity with which the adhesions formed, suggesting that if this condition is to be successfully treated surgery must be performed as soon as possible. In cases where an indefinite colic is exhibited by a bull, an early rectal examination is indicated since a scrotal hernia can be suspected.

Claude Pfoh, '50
Robin Hacecky, '50

To tell the age of any horse,
Inspect the lower jaw of course.
The six foreteeth the tale will tell
And every fear and doubt dispel.

The middle nippers you behold
Before the colt is two weeks old.
Before eight weeks two more will come—
Eight months the “corners” cut the gum.

The outside grooves will disappear
From middle two in just one year;
In two years, from the second pair,
In three the “corners” too are bare.

At two the middle nippers drop;
At three the second pair can’t stop;
When four years old the third pair goes;
At five a full new set he shows.

The black spots will pass from view
At six years from the middle two;
The second part at seven years;
At eight each spot the corner clears.

From middle “nippers” upper jaw
At nine the black spots will withdraw;
The second pair at ten are white;
Eleven finds the corners light.

As time goes on the horsemen know
That oval teeth three sided grow;
They longer get, project before
Till twenty, when we know no more.

Anonymous