

Diagnosis and Management of Coccidiosis in Feline Patients

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Abstract

Three kittens were presented with complaints of vomiting and foul smelling watery diarrhea with complete anorexia. Stool samples were positive for *Isospora* oocysts and were treated with Sulphamethoxazole with supportive therapy.

Keywords: Cat; *isospora*; sulphamethoxazole

Introduction

Coccidiosis is intestinal tract infection caused by one-celled organism or protozoa called coccidia. In cats and dogs, most coccidia are of the genus called *Isospora*. Oocysts or immature coccidia are passed in stool of infected cat. They lie in the environment and eventually sporulate and mature into a more developed oocyst that can reinfect the cat. *Isospora felis* and *Isospora rivolta* are most common species of coccidian found in cats (Dubey *et al.*, 2009). The infected dam can shed oocysts in stool which can be source of infection to her young ones.

History and Diagnosis

Three non-descript kittens aged 2.5 months were presented with complaints of vomiting and foul smelling watery diarrhea with complete anorexia. All three kittens were of same cat. All vital parameters were within normal range with mild dehydration. Kittens were dewormed before 10 days. Stool samples were collected aseptically with sterile swab directly from rectum for assessment. Samples were found positive for *Isospora felis* (Fig. 1 and 2).

Treatment and Discussion

Based on history, clinical signs and stool sample examination, it was diagnosed as Coccidiosis. Treatment was initiated with inj. Sulphamethoxazole + Trimethoprim at 25 mg/kg b.wt. IM, inj. Ondansetron 0.5 mg/kg b.wt. IV, inj. Tribivet^a 0.25 ml IV, inj.

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Metronidazole at 15 mg/kg b.wt. IV and DNS 10 ml/kg b.wt. intravenously for three days. Animals were withhold for food till cessation of vomiting. Animals were recovered completely after course of medication of seven days. Kittens and pups are most susceptible for coccidiosis than adults. A kitten is not born with coccidia. After birth, kittens are frequently exposed to mother's feces. If the mother is shedding infective cysts in her feces, her babies can ingest them during nursing. Since young kittens

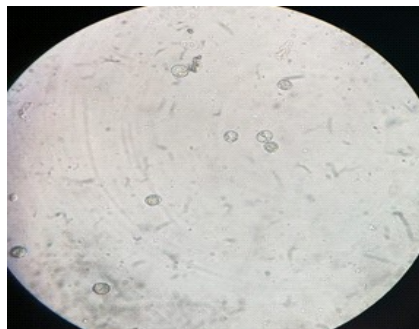


Fig. 1: 10x view of *Isospora felis*



Fig. 2: Oocyst of *Isospora felis*

Coccidiosis in feline



Fig. 3: Compromised kitten

(less than six months of age) have no immunity to coccidia, the organisms reproduce in great numbers and may cause serious consequences. In kittens, it is seen primarily during weaning stress (Merck, 2016) (Fig. 3).

Coccidia are not parasitic intestinal worms. They are

microscopic parasites that live within cells of intestinal lining. Because they live in intestinal tract and commonly cause diarrhea, they are often confused with worms (Ward, 2009). As this disease is contagious and spread through ingestion, hence nutrition as well as feeding of kittens especially weaned ones requires greater attention. Sanitation of catteries or house hold is necessary to prevent disease. This disease producing same clinical sings as endoparasitic infestation hence this disease should be kept in mind during differential diagnosis of gastrointestinal disorders in young ones.

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Livestock business amounts to the tune of about 4500 crore INR in Meghalaya

Meghalaya Chief Minister, Shri Conrad K. Sangma on 12th Feb, 2022 highlighted that livestock business amounts to the tune of about 4500 crore INR in State and 50 percent of this is sourced from outside the state. He also stated that Government is making required investment to upscale dairy sector in State. He said that through the flagship 'Dairy Mission' programme, State Government has chart out various interventions to promote dairy farming.