

JOB ROLE – ANIMAL HEALTH WORKER

Sector – Agriculture

(Qualification Pack Code: AGR/Q4804)

Class IX



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UNIT 3: Veterinary First Aid

Session 2: First Aid Measures For Non-infectious Conditions

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Session Objectives

The student will be able to :

- Describe the first aid of non-infectious conditions e.g. indigestion, tympani, diarrhea etc.

Introduction

Farm animals are adversely affected by many conditions which are non-infectious in nature. Such diseases when detected timely, can be easily managed with the help of preliminary treatment.

If improvement is not seen within few hours of preliminary treatment, then non infectious disease may be life-threatening for the animal and requiring veterinarian's immediate attention.

First Aid Measures for Non-infectious Conditions

Some of the non-infectious conditions adversely affecting the farm animals are:

- a) Indigestion,
- b) Constipation
- c) Tympani
- d) Impaction
- e) Diarrhoea

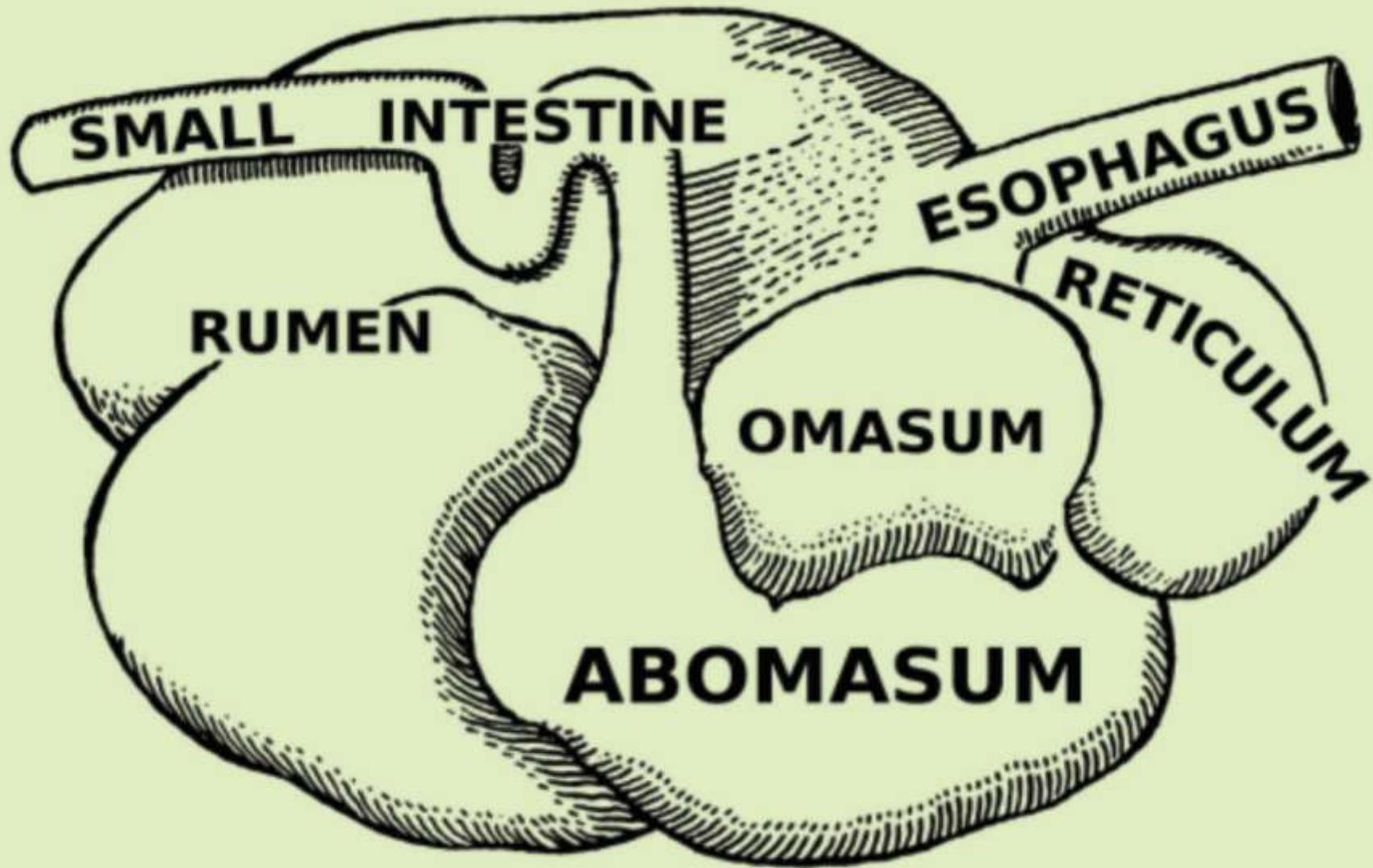
Simple Indigestion

Cattle and goat are ruminant animals.

Ruminants are animals with a four-compartment stomach including the rumen (largest compartment), reticulum (honeycomb lining), omasum (many folds) and abomasum (gastric compartment).

Micro-organisms living in the rumen allow ruminants like the dairy cow to digest the fibrous components of feed.

The rumen functions in coordination with the reticulum to support contractions of the musculature that create the functions of rumination (cud chewing and rumen contractions) and eructation (gas release).



Schematic diagram of four compartments (rumen, reticulum, omasum and abomasum) of stomach of ruminants

Constipation

Constipation is regarded as the sign of other diseases rather than a disease itself.

Constipated animals cannot defecate and they pass with difficulty very hard droppings.

Constipation can be treated by giving an enema. Enema is the administration of a medicine or warm soapy water into the rectum through anus.

Affected animals are offered plenty of drinking water.

Tympani

Abnormal expansion of the rumen and reticulum caused by accumulation of gases in the rumen.

Common clinical signs:

1. Expanded left abdomen
2. Pain and discomfort
3. Animal feels strained while urinating and defecating
4. Rapid or difficult breathing
5. Open mouth with protruding tongue

Treated with:

1. Antibloat preparations
2. Stomach tube passed to release the rumen gases
3. Passage of trocar and cannula to release rumen gases.



Stomach Tube



Trocar and Cannula

Impaction

Impaction of rumen means dense packing of rumen with indigestible roughage.

Cause: Ingestion of large amounts of highly fermentable carbohydrate rich food or the leftover of parties or marriages.

Common signs: Symptoms occur in 6–12 hours of ingestion, restlessness, kicking at the belly, frequent lying down and getting up and enlargement of upper abdomen on the left side of the belly.

The animal goes completely off feed and can even die.

Treatment: Grains is restricted, animal made to exercise vigorously for half an hour for 3 times daily. Water is allowed to the animal in limited quantities at a time. About 200–400 g of sodium bicarbonate dissolved in 1 to 2 litres of water is given orally to the affected animal.



Photographs showing upper abdomen of a cow.

Diarrhoea

1. Diarrhoea means the passage of loose and watery faeces by the animal in increased frequency.
2. Diarrhoea causes dehydration in affected animals.
3. The affected animal shows signs of dullness, depression, lethargy and weakness with sunken eyes.
4. Diarrhoea is caused due to infectious or dietary reasons. The treatment for diarrhoea is aimed at correcting the cause of diarrhoea. If it is of dietary origin, the diet is corrected.



Summary

- In this session you have learnt about first aid of non-infectious conditions e.g. indigestion, tympani, diarrhoea etc.

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