

ANATOMIC PREDISPOSITION TO STRANGULATED OBSTRUCTIVE COLIC IN EQUINE

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SUMMARY

Gross anatomical peculiarities which may predispose the horses to strangulated obstructive colic were studied in two groups of healthy euthanized horses and donkeys: a predisposed group comprising 5 horses and a control group comprising 10 donkeys not ordinarily affected with strangulated obstructive colic.

The dimensions of the ligamentous attachments of certain segments of the bowel, commonly considered the seats of troubles i.e. ileocecal, cecocolic, and duodenocolic folds were measured and compared between the two groups of animals. The base, height, length and width of each structure were measured. The diameter of the greater and lesser curvatures of the stomach and the length of the cecum were also measured. Moreover, the dimensions and location of the stomach and cecum were also studied in both groups of animals.

INTRODUCTION

The mortality rate arising from obstructive colic in horses is greater than other horse health problems. Numerous factors predispose to the development of obstructive colic in horses. Contaminated food, over eating, sand, excessive stress, diseases, parasitic infestation and motility malfunction have been considered predisposing factors for colic in horses (Meagher, 1972; Tennant et al., 1972; Wheat, 1975; Adams and McIlwairth, 1975; Foerner, 1982; Dyson and Orsini, 1983; Huskamp and Kopf, 1983; Wilson et al., 1983; Bertone et al., 1987; Harrison, 1988 and 1989; Ross, 1989).

In Egypt, donkeys occupied an important position among farm animals as they still play a valuable role in the farmer's work, carrying loads as a mean of transport.

The question that has not been answered so far is "why donkeys are seldom affected with obstructive strangulated colic?". This promoted us to study the anatomical factors in relation to certain segments of the bowel in horses and donkeys.