

MANAGEMENT OF PSEUDOPREGNANCY IN BITCHES

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Eleven non pregnant bitches were referred at Teaching Veterinary Clinical Complex, Nagpur Veterinary College, Nagpur with complaints of whelping symptoms and display of maternal behavior. On the basis of history, clinical signs and ultrasonography, it was confirmed, as pseudopregnancy. Reported bitches were treated with tab. Cabergoline 5 µg/kg bodyweight for 5 days and applied Venegar on teats. In seven bitches, clinical symptoms were reduced within five days of treatment. Remaining bitches were disappeared symptoms within a week. No major side effects were recorded during the treatment. Uneventfully recovery was observed in the cases within a week. It can be concluded that pseudopregnancy is common in the bitches, if diagnosed very early, and can be treated by both orally cabergoline 5 µg/kg bodyweight for 5 days as well as local application of vinegar on teat.

Keywords: Bitch, Management, Pseudopregnancy.

Pseudocycesis (PSC), pseudopregnancy or false pregnancy is a physiological syndrome in canines that expresses symptoms similar to the post-partum signs. The intensity of these symptoms is extremely variable among the individuals. Pseudopregnancy actually defines the species as the non-pregnant dog has a corpus luteum life span that often exceeds that in pregnant animals (Gobello *et. al.*, 2001). False pregnancy is a clinical phenomenon in which the non-pregnant female dogs exhibits maternal behaviour and physical signs of pregnancy at the end of diestrus (luteal phase). It consists to symptoms similar to postpartum signs like mothering objects, mammary enlargement and even lactation. It was initially hypothesized that pseudopregnancy was caused by increased concentrations of circulating prolactin caused by an abrupt decline of progesterone levels in the late luteal phase and the consequential loss of progesterone negative feedback on prolactin secretion.

Razzaque *et al.* (2008) opined that PSC is a frequent phenomenon in domestic dogs and although its exact frequency is not known, it is estimated to be around 50 to 75 % they also stated that false pregnancy is easy to diagnose and easy to treat using dopamine agonists. Arbieter *et al.* (1988) and Harvey *et al.* (1997) noted that the cabergoline can be effectively administered once a day. Cabergoline crosses the blood brain barrier

only slightly and consequently has much less central emetic effects than some other dopamine agonists. The present clinical case paper describes the management of pseudopregnancy in bitches.

A total of eleven non pregnant bitches were referred at Teaching Veterinary Clinical Complex, Nagpur Veterinary College, Nagpur with complaints of whelping symptoms and display of maternal behavior. All reported bitches were carefully examined. Body temperature, respiration rate, appetite and general body conditions were in normal range. Some of the bitches were found with abdominal enlargement with fat depositions around abdomen. Digging, finding the dark place, teat with milk drops, mammary gland enlargement, nesting behaviour were also observed. On the basis of history, clinical signs and ultrasonography, it was confirmed, as pseudopregnancy.

All bitches were treated with tab. cabergoline 5 µg/kg bodyweight for 5 days and venegar was applied on teats. In seven bitches, clinical symptoms reduced within five days of treatment. In remaining bitches symptoms disappeared within a week. No major side effects were recorded during the treatment. Uneventfully recovery was observed in the cases within a week.

It can be concluded that pseudopregnancy is common in the bitches, if diagnosed very early, and can be treated by both orally cabergoline 5 µg/kg bodyweight

for 5 days as well as local application of vinegar on teats.

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