

JOB ROLE – ANIMAL HEALTH WORKER

Sector – Agriculture

(Qualification Pack Code: AGR/Q4804)

Class IX



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UNIT 3: Veterinary First Aid

Session 3: First Aid Measures in Special Cases

Content

Title	Slide No.
Session Objectives	4
Introduction	5
First Aid Measures in Special Cases	6
Controlling Bleeding from a Wound	11
Management of Wounded Animals	14
Prolapse of Uterus	15
Summary	18

Session Objectives

The student will be able to :

- Provide first aid in accidental situations in animals e.g. poisoning, burn, wound, prolapse of uterus etc.

Introduction

- First aid measures refers to emergency treatment administered to an injured or sick farm animal before professional medical care is available.
- The aim of administering first aid is to prevent suffering and where possible save life of the animal in special cases like sun stroke, electrocution, burn injuries etc.

First Aid Measures in Special Cases

Poisoning:

When animal swallow the poison, inhale it or absorb it through the skin.

Eating poisonous plants, accidentally ingesting urea, rodenticides, pesticides, etc.

Even overdose of medicines given to animals may prove poisonous.

Sign of poisoning:

Abdominal pain, dullness and depression, refuses to muscular trembling, convulsions and excessive frothing from the mouth.

The animal may ultimately die if not treated in time.

Sun stroke

Sun stroke results in hyperthermia in the animal.

Hyperthermia is the elevation of body temperature above 104°F, which increases heart rate and respiration rate.

Causes difficult breathing and convulsions and could result in death of the animal.

Treatment :

1. Reducing the body temperature of the animal.
2. Moving the affected animal to shaded and well-ventilated place.
3. Pouring water on the body
4. Giving glucose and water orally
5. Cold water enema

Electrocution

Accidental injuries or death caused by electric shock passing through the body of the animal.

Causes: Lightning, high voltage electric current from fallen transmission wires and accidental chewing of live electric wires.

Sign: Unconsciousness, depression, blindness, etc.

Treatment:

Affected animals are kept in quiet and calm area with minimum disturbances. Adequate water is offered to the affected animals. Skin wounds are treated with application of antibiotic creams.

Burn injuries

Any type of thermal injury caused by fire, flames and hot solids.

Injuries caused by hot fluids or steam are termed as scald.

The extent of a burn injury depends upon the temperature of the hot object and the duration of time for which it came in contact with the animal.

Depending upon the involvement of skin tissue, burns may be classified into three categories: burn injury, second degree and third degree burn injury



Categories of Burn Injury

1. **Burn injuries:** Only superficial and outer layer of skin is involved. It is a mild type of injury and recovers within few days.
2. **Second degree burn injury:** Partial thickness of the skin is involved. Vesicles are formed and for early and complete recovery, special care is taken to prevent secondary infection due to bacteria.
3. **Third degree burn injury:** Full thickness of skin and even underlying organs may be involved. It is most severe form of burn injury and special attention is required for complete cure of the animal.

Wounds

1. A wound may be defined as any injury in the skin or other body tissues due to a cut, blow or other impact.
2. Wounds frequently remain unnoticed in farm animals and they are allowed to heal on their own without any special care or treatment.
3. A careful and intelligent treatment of wounds greatly reduces the loss resulting from these injuries. The method of treatment varies for the different kinds of wound.

Type of wound

Incised wound

If the tissues are cut by a sharp instrument and the edges of the wound are smooth, it is called incised or clean-cut wound. Such wounds are also caused during surgical operations on the animal.

Lacerated wound

When the tissues are torn irregularly, the wound is known as a lacerated wound. A cut caused due to a wire is an example of this type.

Contused wound

A contused wound is an injury caused by a blunt object. Such injuries may be superficial or deep. Superficial-contused wounds may be an abrasion to the skin or mucous surface.

Punctured wounds

Punctured wounds are deeper than the width of opening or break in the skin or mucous membrane. This class is produced by sharp objects such as nails or splinters of wood.

Controlling Bleeding from a Wound

Bleeding is the most common symptom in many types of wound. The degree of bleeding depends on the kind, number and size of the blood vessels severed. Severe bleeding can also result in death of the animal.

Methods to control bleeding:

1. Ligation, pressure
2. Torsion
3. Application of heat
4. Bathing the wound with hot water (small blood-vessels).
5. Surgically tying of the cut end (large blood-vessels)
6. Pressure over the surface
7. Wound is bandaged heavily

Management of Wounded Animals

1. The injured tissues are carefully examined for any type of foreign objects or particles such as hair, dirt, gravel, pieces of wood, nails, etc.
2. Trimming the the hair and torn tissues along the margins of the wound.
3. Drainage for the wound secretion and pus is provided.
4. Suturing of wound depends on its character and location. A badly infected wound is left open unless satisfactory drainage for the pus and wound secretion occurs naturally.

Management of Wounded Animals (contd...)

5. Wounds across tissue muscle and other movable parts of animals are not sutured.
6. Post treatment care includes keeping the animal in a quiet and clean place.
7. Keep the animal in a clean stall until the wounds are completely healed to avoid dirt and rubbing against weeds and grass.

Prolapse of Uterus

1. Uterine prolapse is the protrusion of uterus through the vulva, as shown in Figure.
2. A mass of uterus is found hanging through the vulva.
3. Occurs immediately after calving or a few hours after calving
4. In delayed cases the mass may get ruptured or lacerated by rubbing through the ground or walls of the cattle shed.
5. Animals with calcium deficiency are particularly susceptible to prolapse of uterus.



Prolapse of Uterus

- **Treatment:**
- The cattle owner or animal health worker immediately washes the prolapsed mass with mild antiseptic solution.
- If there is swelling of the mass, it is reduced using application of cold ice on the uterine mass.
- Alternatively, saturated sugar solution can also be applied for reduction of the uterine mass.
- The cattle owner immediately wraps the prolapsed mass with a wet towel and tries to keep it raised up to the level of the vulva.
- The prolapsed mass is not allowed to dry.
- Injuries to the prolapsed mass are avoided and veterinarian is immediately called for treatment.

Summary

- In this session you have learnt about the various types of accidental situations in animals and their first aid.

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