



Recent trends in ABC

Giggin.T

ABC (Animal birth Control) is one of the most talked terms in the present scenario. It slowly became a routine procedure for the NGOs in the cities.

Major part of ABC programme is the surgical removal of reproductive organs like testicles in males and ovary or ovary and uterus in females.

Some recent trends in ABC, which are following in the metros and major cities, are having following advantages

1. No need of expensive infrastructure facilities.
2. No need of expert assistant.
3. No need of hospitalization and expensive post-operative treatment.
4. Simple, effective and time saving procedures.
5. Economically feasible to owners.

Preparation of animal

Make a general check-up for the health status, check visible mucous membranes to assess whether the animal is anemic or not (Hb level less than 6gm% is unfit for surgery) and deworm the animal one-week prior to surgery. Maintain the animal on overnight fasting prior to the day of surgery (Advise the owner to bath the animal on the previous day. Owner should be informed the pros and cons of surgery).

Anesthesia and control

Anesthesia is the major part of Surgery and one should take extreme care in case of Anesthesia. Take a written consent for anesthesia and surgery from the owner prior to anesthesia. The combination

of pre-anesthetic and anesthetic medication will increase the margin of safety and ease of handling. So the animal can be sedated with Triflupromazine hydrochloride (0.5-1 mg/kg intravenously) or Diazepam (0.5- 1 mg/kg slow intravenously). Allow 10-15 minutes for the action of the sedative and prepare the site by shaving. After the shaving and preparation, animal can be anesthetized with Thiopentone sodium. (1.25% solution is more safe to use and the maximum dosage is 25mg/kg. One third of the total calculated amount can be given as bolus injection and rest can be given slowly after checking the reflexes.

Castration/ Orchidectomy

This is the surgical procedure to sterilize the male species. The desired site of operation is pre-scrotal as it is less irritating for the animal auto-mutilation chances are less. The testicles can be squeezed up to the pre-scrotal site and can be taken out through 1-1.5cm long skin incision. After proper ligation and severing push the tunica vaginalis back to the scrotum. Remove the other one also in the same manner. Skin can be closed with a single horizontal mattress suture. The total procedure will take only 10 minutes.

Spaying / Ovario hysterectomy

This is the surgical procedure to sterilize female of the species. Generally two approaches are there for this procedure.

1. Mid-ventral approach.
2. Lateral approach

Mid-ventral approach is the time-tested pretty old procedure. The advantage of this procedure is the minimal bleeding. Many breeders prefer this method as the scar won't interfere the coat and so show-worthiness of the animal is preserved. Disadvantage of this method is chances of herniation. Lateral approach is the popular method of ABC in metros and major cities. The advantage of this method is that the incision is comparatively small and no chance of herniation. The biggest disadvantage is comparatively increased blood loss, which can be prevented if done carefully. The site preferred is on the left side mid-flank 1-1.5 inches caudal to the last rib. An oblique incision of 1-1.5 inches (3-5 cm) in the mid-flank starting 1-1.5 inches caudal to the last rib is the ideal one. If fully confident with the incision, just perpendicularly pass the thumb forceps into the abdominal cavity and try to locate the ovary. Remove the ovary and search the other side by gently passing of the fingers along the body of the uterus. Remove the other one also. If the procedure seems to be difficult for the other ovary, close the incision and try through the other side. The total procedure will take 20-40 minutes.

