Veterinary Bioscience: Digestive System

LECTURE 25
MECHANISMS OF DIARRHOEA

LECTURER

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INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES

At the end of this lecture, you should be able to:

- describe the potential consequences of diarrhoea
- use clinical observations to distinguish between diarrhoea of small and large intestina lorigin in small domestic animal species
- explain the mechanisms that can be responsible for diarrhoea in domestic animals and provide specific examples of causes of each mechanism.

KEY WORDS

diarrhoea, dysentery, enteritis, duodenitis, jejunitis, ileitis, colitis, typhlitis, proctitis, melaena, hypersecretion, secretory diarrhoea, maldigestion, malabsorption, steatorrhoea, creatorrhoea, amylorrhoea, small intestinal villous atrophy, exudative diarrhoea, osmotic overload

LECTURE OVERVIEW

This lecture provides an overview of the mechanisms that can be responsible for diarrhoea in domestic animals, building on your understanding of the physiological mechanisms governing water absorption from the intestinal lumen in health. Some of the examples of specific causes of diarrhoea that we will review include primary maldigestive disorders, bacterial, viral and parasitic infections, immune-mediated disorders and neoplasia of the intestines. We will also review the potential consequences of diarrhoea and provide guidelines to assist in distinguishing diarrhoea of small versus large intestinal origin in small animal species.

FURTHER READING

H. B. Gelberg. Alimentary system. In: Pathologic Basis of Veterinary Disease. 6th edition. Ed. J. F. Zachary. Elsevier, St Louis, Missouri, USA (2017). pp. 324-411 (especially pp. 333-335 and 340-342)