

ACTINOMYCOSIS IN A WEST AFRICAN DWAEF GOAT IN NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT

A 3-year old West African Dwarf doe from a herd of 42 goats intensively reared in Abeokuta, Nigeria, was presented with an abscess on the right lower angle of the mandible. Clinical history indicated that the goat had a swelling at the ramus of the mandible. The swelling which was initially painless, hard and immovable later became soft and painful to the touch. Rectal temperature, pulse and heart rates of the doe were within normal range. The abscess on the animal was allowed to mature after which it was lanced and the mucopurulent exudate was aseptically collected with a sterile cotton swab. The exudate material was culturally examined. On the basis of its colony characteristics, cell morphology, staining reactions and physiological and biochemical reactions, the isolate was identified as *Actinomyces viscosus*. Thus, the disease was diagnosed as goat actinomycosis. For the management of the condition, the abscess was drained, and topically dressed with oxytetracycline spray. In addition, intramuscular injection of long acting oxytetracycline at 20 mg/kg live body weight was administered twice at three days interval. Healing of the lesion on the goat was complete within ten days of initiation of therapy. The choice of oxytetracycline was based on the result of the antimicrobial sensitivity test and the availability of drug.

Key words: Isolation, *Actinomyces viscosus*, goat, Nigeria