

Cryptorchidism in a male Blue Sheep (*Pseudois nayaur*) at Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park

Pankaj Kumar* and A.K. Jha**

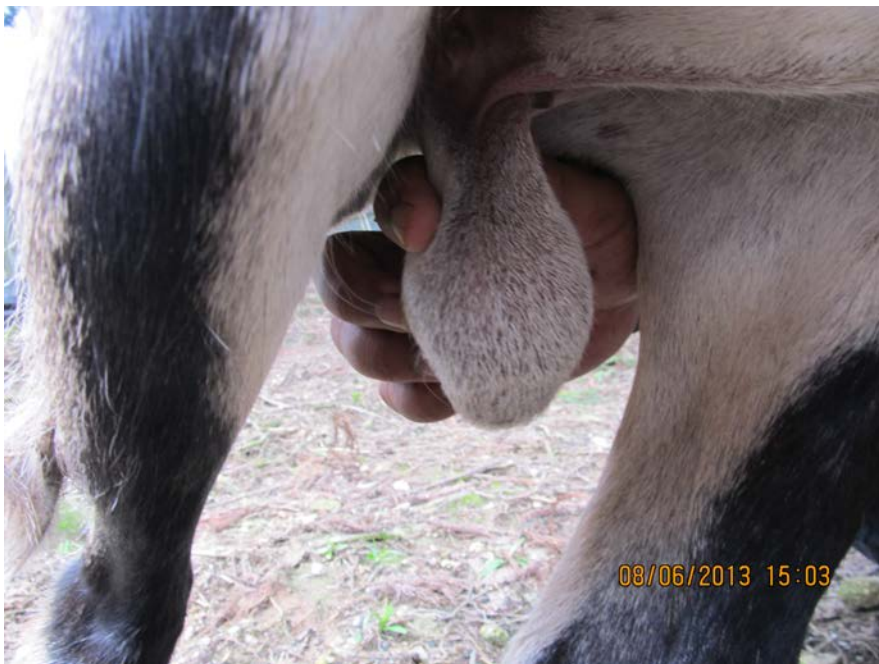
Cryptorchidism is the absence of one or both testes from the scrotum. It is a common birth defect regarding male genitalia. The paper discusses a unique case of Cryptorchidism observed in a blue sheep at Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park.

Key words: *Pseudois nayaur*, Blue sheep, cryptorchidism, PNHZ Park.

Introduction: Cryptorchidism is a pathological condition of the testis which denotes an abnormal retention of undescended testicle, which maybe retained within abdominal cavity or inguinal canal. Normally the testis is located in the scrotum at or soon after birth through descent of testes. Cryptorchidism maybe unilateral or bilateral. Unilateral Cryptorchidism (retention of one testicle) is more common and the affected males are nearly normal fertile because of normal production of spermatozoa from the one testis located in the scrotum and is more common. Bilateral cryptorchidism is the



The male blue sheep fawn born to the male...a healthy animal



Cryptorchidism is a pathological condition of the testis. The two pictures (see next page) show the testis from two different angles.

retention of two testes that results in sterility. In cryptorchidism the affected testis is usually small in size, soft and flaccid. The cryptorchidism is seen in all species of domestic animals, but is commonly seen in stallions, boars and dogs. It is less common in rams and bucks, uncommon in bulls and rarely in cat.

Materials and Methods: A captive born male Blue sheep house named "Venus" aged three years was diagnosed with unilateral cryptorchidism on manual palpation of scrotum for the presence of testis that revealed the absence of one testis in the scrotal pouch. The

*Veterinary Officer and **Director, PNHZ Park, Darjeeling, West Bengal. Email: alankarkjha@gmail.com

animal is born to a pair that was brought from Okinawa Kids Foundation, Japan. The animal is behaviourally sound and in spite of the defect the animal gave birth in the year 2012 and 2013. Both the male and female fawn sired by the male are healthy and already one year old.

Conclusion

In case of conservation breeding species individuals diagnosed with cryptorchidism should not be used for breeding for healthy propagation of the captive stock since cryptorchidism is a hereditary condition, such males should either be castrated or removed from the conservation breeding programme and can be used for display only.

Discussion: It is a hereditary defect caused by a recessive sex limited gene involving more than one pair of genes. The semen of a mono cryptorchid male may be normal, clear and watery and the sperm concentration is comparatively low, relatively more abnormal with dead sperm cells. In unilateral cryptorchidism there may be impairment of fertilizations (ranging from normal to infertile) and the sexual behavior of a cryptorchid male is normal, coitus in such a male is prompt, hence the case discussed can be assessed as normal unilateral cryptorchidism.



Another example of Cryptorchidism which is the absence of one or both testes from the scrotum. Photographer unk.

Reference:

Shukla, S.P. (2002). Andrology and Artificial Insemination in Farm Animals 1st Ed.

Announcement

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Contact for more details:

Dr. S. Vasudevan
Mob. 09443622798, Email - devansiva@gmail.com
Convener (LACOASTE - 2014)
Department of Earth Sciences, Annamalai
University, Tamil Nadu 608 002.