



Successful Therapeutic Management of Wing Trauma in A Barn Owl (*Tyto alba*): A Rare Case Report

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ABSTRACT

This paper presents a successful therapeutic management of a barn owl with wing trauma. The barn owl was treated with parenteral antibiotics, NSAID and multi-vitamin for five consecutive days. The bird was recovered uneventfully.

Key words: Barn owl, Wing trauma, Therapeutic management, recovery.

INTRODUCTION

The barn owl (*Tyto alba*) is one of the most widely distributed species of owl including Indian subcontinent^{1,2}. In Indian mythology, barn owl is the “Vahana” (transport) of Hindu goddess Lakshmi and owl is held as the symbol of wisdom. In India, barn owl is a protected bird species under Wildlife Protection Act, 1972. In birds, trauma of the wings is not uncommon. Though, no information is available regarding the management of trauma of the wings in barn owls. In this context, this paper presents a successful therapeutic management of wing trauma in a barn owl which in due time could provide basic information on clinical management of trauma in this avian species.

CASE HISTORY AND CLINICAL FINDINGS

A sub adult barn owl was presented to the Veterinary Clinical Complex, Lakhimpur College of Veterinary Science, Joyhing, North Lakhimpur, Assam with the history of continuous flapping and inability to fly. The bird was carefully handled by wrapping with a clean cloth to prevent further injury (Fig. 1). Once the bird was handled, both the wings were carefully examined for any lesions. On clinical examination, there was a trauma/bruise in the left wing (Fig. 2) and the bird is dull and stressed. All body parameters were normal.

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Fig. 1: Restraining of barn owl for clinical examination



Fig. 2: Injured wing of the barn owl

TREATMENT AND DISCUSSION

The trauma area of the barn owl was washed with normal saline solution and then providone iodine was applied. The bird was then treated with parenteral injections of antibiotics (enrofloxacin @ 10 mg/kg b. wt.), non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug (Meloxicam @ 0.2 mg/kg b. wt.) and multi-vitamins for 5 consecutive days. The bird was kept in constant monitoring and fed accordingly until recovery in a stress free environment. After seven days of treatment, the wound was completely healed and the bird was freed during the night as they are nocturnal in behaviour.

In the present paper, the barn owl with wing trauma was recovered uneventfully which was in collaboration with findings of others³. The wing traumas are very common in avian species as a result of impact injuries due to collision with branches, electric line or other obstacles, either natural or anthropogenic^{4,5}. The avian practitioner may encounter varieties of clinical presentations associated with the avian trauma patient. An understanding of the physiological response to trauma and the therapeutic means necessary to control inappropriate compensatory mechanisms is critically important in successful management of trauma cases⁶.

CONCLUSIONS

The present case of wing trauma was found to be a rare report in barn owl as limited information is available. Moreover, this paper could provide basic information on clinical management of trauma in this avian species which is previously lacking. It had an uneventful recovery without any complications.

COMPETING INTERESTS

The authors declare that they have no competing interests.

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