

becomes too restive. It may be necessary to withdraw the probang and repeat the oil, and success may reward the patient operator a little later. Wounding of the œsophagus is the frequent result of using improper instruments, and I have known a broken cart whip to be the first obstruction to be removed by the veterinarian on his arrival. If on the withdrawal of the probang, it is found to have blood and tissues adherent, it will be best in the case of a bullock with any flesh at all, to call in the butcher at once, before any gas gets into the tissues, and while the animal is fit for consumption.

After the successful removal of an obstruction of this kind, the animal should be kept without food for about fifteen hours, except perhaps a draught of milk in which an egg or two are beaten up, and an ounce of glycerine added as an emollient. Soft, moist food only should be allowed for two or three days to insure perfect recovery of the injured and exhausted tissues.

With the dog and cat we have quite different subjects to deal with. The former will often appeal to us for assistance and rarely offer any serious objection to an examination of his mouth. Dog probangs can easily be made with a small piece of sponge and a thin cane of the kind some school masters think so helpful to the youthful mind.

The sponge should be fixed in a cleft end, securely bound round with a waxed end or fine twine. One great advantage a dog enjoys over other animals is the possession of a large gullet, but the obstructions in his case are more often of a dangerous character, such as pins and needles, and can sometimes be diagnosed as such from the outside.

Incision into the œsophagus of a dog in the case of a splintered bone or nail having to be removed is a very hopeful operation, and herein he differs from other animals, always excepting the cat.

The veriest tyro in canine surgery must have observed not only the great recuperative power of the dog in case of injuries, but of his ability to fast without evil consequences, so that he makes the best of subjects for œsophagotomy. The wound may be treated with antiseptic bandages, and its position fortunately secures it from those lingual attentions (i. e. lickings) which too often remove sutures, when used in other parts of the body. The choked cat I have ever been unable to regard as quite so "harmless" or "necessary" as she is represented, but still she has to be taken into account in these days when she is honoured with a show of her own. Her symptoms are the same as the dog's, but she does not willingly accept help.

In order to examine her, a soft but bulky rug or blanket should be wrapped round her in such a manner as only to leave her head out. The courageous individual who holds her thus swaddled between his knees, may be induced to grasp with his hands the loose skin at the back of the neck, while the intending operator kneeling in front of her, inserts a bone penholder, or other harmless gag, between her teeth, with a view to the further introduction of two lengths of tape, the one to pull the head upwards and the other to pull down the lower jaw, and give a view of what is within. This plan may be found to answer, and the offending body may be removed with forceps—not fingers.

Of all domesticated animals there is no doubt but that the cat is the best subject for the administration of chloroform. It is safe, and effectual, and leaves no ill effects; therefore it is far wiser to use it than to run the risk of getting mauled.

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