POS-22

Retrospective Study on Food Animal Surgery in Selected States of South-East Nigeria from 2010-2017

C. Unamba-Opah\textsuperscript{1}, I.C. Unamba-Opah\textsuperscript{2} and D.O. Oloche\textsuperscript{1}

\textsuperscript{1}Department of Veterinary Surgery and Theriogenology, Michael Okpara University of Agriculture, Umudike, Abia State, Nigeria; \textsuperscript{2}Department of Veterinary Pathology, Michael Okpara University of Agriculture, Umudike, Abia State, Nigeria

Corresponding author: I.C. Unamba-Opah; E-mail: themsu01@yahoo.com

Abstract

Surgery in food animals is influenced by a lot of factors. This study retrospectively analysed the practice of carrying out surgery in food animals in some states of South-East Nigeria (Abia, Imo, and Ebonyi) over a period of eight years (2010-2017). All existing records and reports in the Government-owned veterinary clinics in the capital cities covering the period of study were analysed. Data obtained were supported by oral interviews with staff. Results showed that there were significantly (p<0.05) more surgeries performed in the last two years (2016 and 2017) than in the previous six years. Over the eight-year period, the peak ‘season’ for surgery was around February and September. Musculoskeletal and reproductive surgeries accounted for almost 90% of surgeries recorded over the period. Bovine (42%) and caprine (25%) were the predominant food animal species presented for surgery in the study region. Unfortunately, the level of documentation of records of surgeries on food animals leaves a lot to be desired. It is true that surgery on food animals may not be as popular in this part of the world as it is for companion animals and other classes of animals; however, for economic purposes including management decisions, policy making, and research, it is highly recommended that record keeping of surgeries on food animals be greatly improved.

Keywords: Surgery, food animals, veterinary clinics, southeast Nigeria

Introduction

Performance of surgical or other procedures to conceal genetic defects in animals used for breeding is unethical unless the health or welfare of the individual patient requires correction of such genetic defects, in which case it is recommended that the animal patient is rendered incapable of reproduction (Ames, 2014). However, surgical procedures are performed in farm animals to correct injuries and other non-genetic anomalies and to aid reproductive processes and restore function where possible. But a farmer still faces the dilemma of either presenting his animal for a corrective surgery or culling the animal and seeking replacement stock. This is particularly so in developing regions where animal breeding/production is divers and dynamic with indigenous breeds still an integral part of existing production systems (Marshall, 2014). Unfortunately, in this country, there is a dearth of proper records of surgical procedures performed in farm animals and a paucity of data on the final outcomes.

This study seeks to profile the surgical procedures performed in farm animals in three selected states -Abia, Imo, and Ebonyi, of the South-Eastern region of Nigeria, over a period of eight years, 2010-2017.

Materials and Methods

The study was carried out in government veterinary clinics in Abia state (5°25'N 7°30'E), Ebonyi state (6°15'N 8°05'E) and Imo state (5°29'N 7°22'E), all in the Southeast geopolitical zone of Nigeria. During visits to the clinics, the clinical records were scrutinized and surgical case records and reports from 2010 to 2017 isolated for analysis. Specifically, all existing records and reports in the Government-owned veterinary clinics in the capital cities covering the period of study were analysed. Data obtained were supported by oral interviews with staff and analysed using simple descriptive statistics.

Results and Discussion

The study throws light on the practice of surgery in food animals in the three states of Abia, Imo, and Ebonyi, South-East Nigeria, over an eight-year period (2010-2017). The result showed that in the last two years, there were more surgery cases than the previous six (Figure I). This may not be unconnected with a period of economic recession experienced in the country at the time (NBS, 2016; NBS, 2017). At such lean times, farmers are more likely to try and salvage existing reliable stock than go for replacement stock which comes with a lot of uncertainties and can be more expensive.

Records also show that the peak periods of the year when farmers presented their animals for surgery was in February and again in August – September (Figure II). The predominant species were bovine and caprine (Figure III). It is likely that the heightened mating- and other associated activities amongst animals in August and September which usually result to injuries from fights (Musculoskeletal surgeries; Figure IV) and other territorial contests (Boyle et al., 1997) may be responsible for this. By February, increased parturition at that time of the year will likely lead to an increase in Dystocia cases. (Reproductive surgeries; Figure IV). The popularity (64%) of carrying out surgery on animals < 1 year and 1-3 years of age (Fig V) is perhaps expected. Older animals’ recovery and reproductive potentials are affected by age and are thus more likely to be culled.
Fig. I: Yearly distribution of surgical cases in the region, 2010-2017

Fig. II: Distribution of surgical cases in the region on a monthly basis

Fig. III: Distribution of surgical cases according to species
Conclusion and Recommendation

Documentation and record keeping of surgery on food animals is necessary and very important. For economic and management purposes, more researches should be done on the subject to maximize the reproductive potential of our food animal species.

References


