

A CASE OF DIAPHRAGMATIC HERNIA IN A COMMON CAT***KENNETH K. KRAMER, Oklahoma A. and M. College, Stillwater**

The cat, one of several embalmed specimens obtained from the General Biological Supply House in Chicago for use in a comparative-anatomy laboratory, was a medium-sized adult of normal external appearance. The ventral side of the diaphragm contained a small circular opening bordered by a thick smoothly healed rim. The seventh left rib bore a small swelling that represented a fully healed fracture. Nearly all of the small intestine and about four-fifths of the liver, including the gall bladder, had worked forward into the right pleural cavity which, in turn, had become distended and spread out ventral to the pericardial and left pleural cavities. In the freshly opened animal the small intestine (Fig. 1) occupied the full length and width of the thorax ventrally. Dorsal to the small intestine to the animal's left lay the protruded portion of the Liver (Fig. 2) which had become molded neatly to fit the space available. The lobes of the right lung lay farther dorsad. The healed condition of the ruptured diaphragm and the adjustment in the shape of the liver indicated that the cat had lived for some time since, and had partly recovered from, the accident that caused the hernia.

The cat in question was examined and the opinions herein expressed were endorsed by several instructors (Professor R. O. Whittenton, Dr. H. W. Orr, Dr. C. P. Kraatz, Dr. G. A. Moore, Mrs. Faye White Penrod) interested in anatomy and physiology.

*Contribution No. 133 from the Department of Zoology, Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical College; prepared under the direction of R. Chester Hughes. The photographs (Figs. 1 and 2) were made by Professor William H. Irwin of the same department.

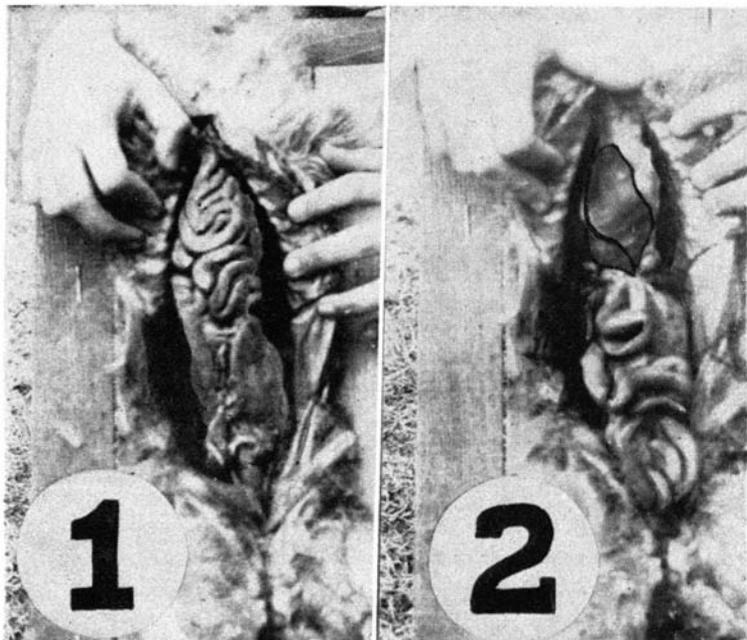


Fig. 1. Diaphragmatic hernia in a common cat—note location of small intestine in ventral side of thorax.

Fig. 2. Same specimen with small intestine laid back to reveal the location of the greater part of the liver (outlined in black) in the left pleural cavity.