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Retroperitoneal abscess associated with a migrating grass awn in a cat: treatment with omentalization and grass awn removal

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### **Abstract**

An 18-month-old domestic short hair male castrated cat presented with a history of fever of unknown origin of one year duration. Abdominal ultrasound revealed a mixed echogenicity mass. Cytological examination of the fluid obtained through fine needle aspiration was consistent with a retroperitoneal abscess. The cat underwent a midline celiotomy and the abscess was opened, lavaged and omentalized. Antibiotics were also administered. Two months after surgery the cat represented with a fluctuant swelling in the right flank region at the lumbodorsal triangle. Abdominal and mass ultrasound showed a mixed echogenicity swelling in the right flank. Under gas anesthesia the swelling was surgically explored and a 0.4 cm long grass awn was found and removed. Telephone communication with the owners 6 months after surgery found the cat to be free of clinical signs.

**Key words:** Cat, grass awn, omentalization, retroperitoneal abscess

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