

Another Cat with an "Upside-Down" Stomach

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Anomalies in anatomic structures can be found in virtually every group in the Animal Kingdom. The most commonly encountered deviations involve small characters such as the variation of site of origin of smaller arteries on the aorta, or a "different" arrangement of the postcava and its many tributaries. One of the more unusual, and sometimes spectacular malformations that students may encounter in their laboratory cat cadavers is a diaphragmatic hernia.

Diaphragmatic hernias are not common in cats. When, during embryonic development, the edge of the transverse septum fails to fuse properly with the edge of the pleuro-peritoneal membrane to form the diaphragm, a hole results through which the viscera may protrude into the thoracic cavity.

A small female cat turned up recently in my comparative vertebrate anatomy laboratory that was afflicted with such a hernia. Figure 1 is a photograph of this unusual specimen. The lungs were very small, and were greatly compressed by the intestines. The stomach and spleen were greatly enlarged, and the kidneys, liver, and ovaries are in unusual positions. This cat is similar, in a number of characteristics, to a case reported by Reifenburgh, Lawson, and Ogden. (*Proc. Indiana Acad. Sci.*, 7:285.286.)

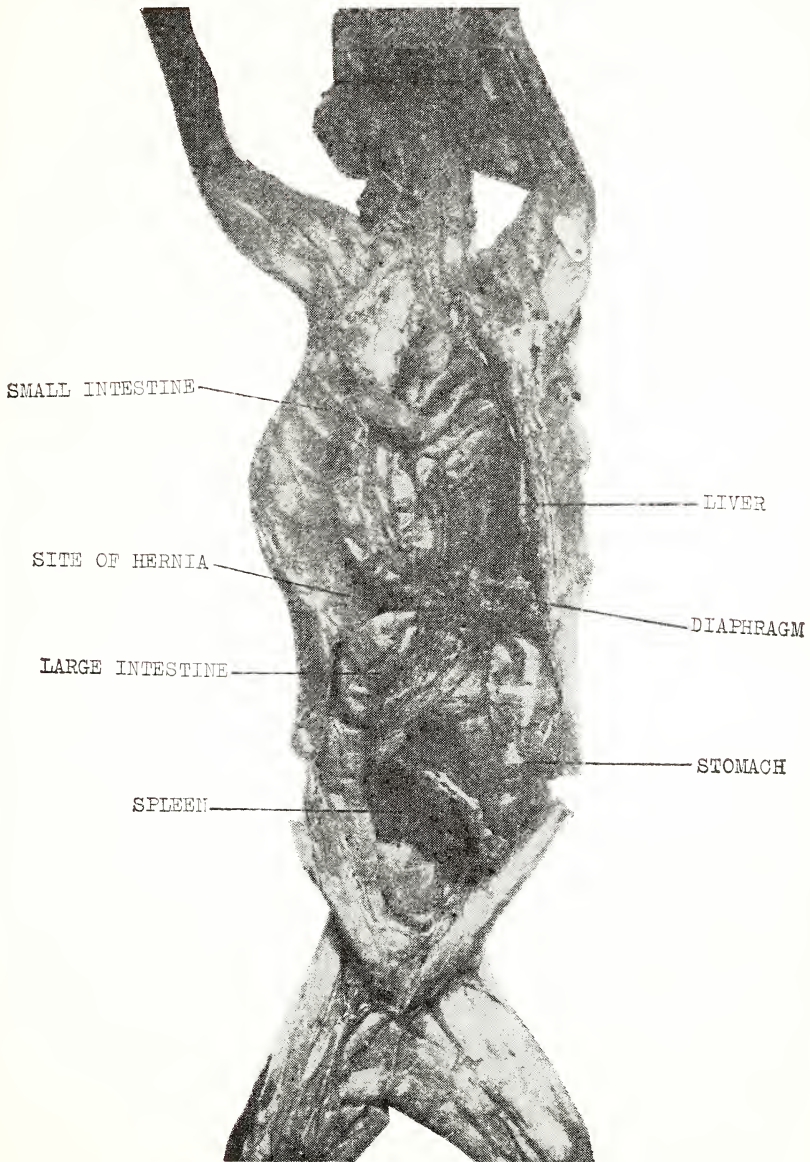


Fig. 1