EXTRACTS FROM VETERINARY NEWSLETTERS

Outbreak of trypanosomiasis in Ranthambore National Park

An investigation was conducted following an outbreak in Ranthambore National Park in which chital, sambar, buffaloes and cows died in 1993 and 1994. Blood and lymph smears made from wild and domestic ungulates revealed the presence of Trypanosoma evanci.

Dharm Pal Singh in the Newsletter of World Association of Wildlife Veterinarians. August 1995, No:20.

Request for crocodile blood smears

Blood smears from wild, wild-caught and farmed crocodiles in pens where wild crocodiles also occur is required to make a detailed study of the crocodilian blood parasites of the genera Haemogregarina and Hepatozoon, of which only a few species have been described. The thin blood smears should be air-dried and them fixed in methanol and dried again. It should have details of the species, status of crocodile, date, location, name and address of the collector. Please send firmly packed smears to Dr. F.W. Huchzermeryer, Onderstepoort Veterinary Institute, Private Bag X5, 0110 Onderstepoort, South Africa or Dr. M.A. Peirce, 16 Westmortland Close, Woosehill, Berks, RG11 9AZ, England.

News in Newsletter of the World Association of Wildlife Veterinarians, No.15 May 1994

Encephalitis/myocarditis (EMC) in elephants in Africa

A series of unexplained elephant mortalities occurred in the Kruger National Park (KNP) and adjacent private game parks of South Africa since November 1993. More than 55 elephant carcases have been found till the beginning of January 1995. Necropsies conducted on fresh elephant carcasses revealed accumulation of sero-sanguinous fluid in pericardial sac, hemorrhages under the epicardial surface of the heart, focal necrosis in heart muscle and oedema in the lungs. EMC virus was isolated from the heart muscle of 4 of these elephants.

In a concurrent epidemiological survey, serological results on more than 600 mice indicated that a mouse (Mastomys natalensis) is the main role player with EMCV antibodies present in 38% of individuals. The authors speculate that the rodent number has rapidly increased following environmental changes and that the virus excreted in the feces and urine of the hosts, contaminate the grass on which the elephants feed.

Prevalence of EMCV antibodies even in elephant sera collected before 1992 suggest that many elephants survive this disease and death is not always a clinical end point. The authors conclude that this disease probably will not have any long term significant impact on the South African elephant population.

Raath, J.P., Grabler, D. Bengis, R.G. and Keet, D.F. in Veterinary Specialist Group Newsletter, No.9, April 1995.

Rinderpest threat to wild caprines from domestic ruminants in Pakistan

A server outbreak of rinderpest is causing high mortalities in cattle and yaks throughout the upper Indus Valley watershed in Pakistan. Focus of infection has apparently reached the upper mountain pastures during the summer. So far no report of this disease in wild sheep and goats (Ibex, markhor, blue sheep etc.) have been reported. The outbreak among domestic goats have now been confirmed by identification Peste des Petits virus as the causative agent. Should this pathogen also make the journey to the upper Himalayan pastures, the outlook for wild caprines could be far from healthy.

Rossiter, P.B. in Veterinary Specialist Group Newsletter, April 1995.

Conference Announcement

An International conference on CAMELIDS: SCIENCE AND PRODUCTIVITY will be held during 15-19 December 1996 at the Royal Beach Hotel, Eilat, Israel. The aim of this conference is to being together scientists and camelid experts form all over the world who will provide up-to-date information about the latest research, which directly effect productivity, both to the governments of those countries which have camelids, as well as to the Donor Agencies who support applied research. For further information, contact

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