

1954

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Recommended Citation

(1954) "Abstracts," *Iowa State University Veterinarian*: Vol. 16 : Iss. 1 , Article 14.

Available at: https://lib.dr.iastate.edu/iowastate_veterinarian/vol16/iss1/14

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ABSTRACTS



EPIDEMIOLOGY OF CANICOLA FEVER. The relationship of canine disease to canicola fever in man is obviously of public health importance, and it is desirable that the preventive aspect should receive attention. Since the first case of human canicola fever was diagnosed in Holland in 1931, the number of known cases has been steadily increasing although the total number is not as large as one might expect. It is surprising, as the dog is believed to be the main source of infection in man, that more cases have not been recognized.

Several explanations have been advanced for the small number of reported cases in relation to the high rate of canine infection. It has been argued, for example, that *Leptospira canicola* has a low virulence for man and that for human infection to occur, very close contact with the dejecta of infective dogs is necessary.

On the other hand, it has been suggested that the incidence in man is higher than is realized and that many cases of human disease go unrecognized. Cases have been cited where humans have complained of headaches, sore throat, generalized pains, shivering and vomiting two weeks after the onset of leptospirosis in their pets.

It is recommended that in the light of present knowledge, greater attention should be paid to the preventive aspect and more information should be made available to dog owners to warn them of the importance of observing hygienic prin-

ciples when handling dogs, particularly when dealing with dejecta.

[McIntyre, W.I.M., M.R.C.V.S.; Seiler, H. E., M. D., F.R.C.P.E. Epidemiology of canicola fever. *The Journal of Hygiene*, 51:330-339. (September) 1953.]

A RESEARCH NOTE ON THE USE OF SODIUM ARSETARSOL AS A PROPHYLACTIC AGENT IN THE CONTROL OF ENTEROHEPATITIS IN TURKEYS.

Experiments were performed in Canada to prove or disprove the claim that sodium arsetarsol was an effective agent in the treatment of enterohepatitis in turkeys. These experiments involved the use of two test flocks of 12-week-old poults that had been exposed to known contaminated ground. The birds in one flock were reserved as untreated controls, while the other flock was given sodium arsetarsol in the drinking water continuously from the day both flocks were exposed. The drug concentration used was 35 Gm. per five gallons of drinking water. The untreated flock showed 30.1 percent losses from histomoniasis while the treated flock showed only 10.9 percent losses.

As a continuation of the experiment after the initial outbreak had subsided and apparent clinical disease ended in both flocks, all of the birds were again challenged with infective material. Capsules containing approximately 1000 em-

bryonated *Heterakis gallinae* eggs were given to each bird. Sodium arsetarsol had been administered to the birds daily since the start of the first outbreak and was continued after the embryonated eggs were fed to them. The losses this time were 71.4 percent in the untreated group and 34.04 percent in the treated group.

It was concluded that sodium arsetarsol had some preventive and therapeutic activity, but that under these experimental conditions, it was not sufficient to hold losses to a point that might be considered effective under field conditions.

[McGregor, J. K. A research note on the use of sodium arsetarsol as a prophylactic agent in the control of enterohepatitis of turkeys. Canadian Journal of Comparative Medicine and Veterinary Science, 17:375-376 (September) 1953.]

OXYTETRACYCLINE TOXICITY STUDIES IN DOGS. In an effort to study the effects of parenteral injections of large doses of oxytetracycline (Terramycin), seven dogs were experimentally treated with the drug. Oxytetracycline buffered with sodium glycinate was dissolved in normal saline and injected into

the cephalic vein daily. The daily dose varied from 25 to 220 mg./kg. of body weight.

The dog receiving a single dose of 220 mg./kg. of body weight expired 30 minutes following the injection of the drug. The dogs receiving smaller doses (25 to 75 mg./kg. daily) became lethargic and a marked weight loss ensued. Vomiting and diarrhea were present in two of the animals. All of the dogs had expired at the end of seven days from the effects of excessive doses of oxytetracycline.

It has been postulated that death results from systemic toxicity when the rate of drug administered exceeds the rate of excretion and detoxification.

[Sedwitz, J., Bateman, J. C., Klopp, C. T. Oxytetracycline toxicity studies in dogs. Antibiotics and Chemotherapy, 3:1015-1019. (October) 1953.]

The gestation period for elephants is from 19 to 20 months; giraffes, 14 months; tigers, 120 days; lions, 102 days; opossums, 13 days; dogs, 2 months; mice, 19 days.

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