

**AN OUTBREAK OF SUSPECTED TICK PARALYSIS IN CATTLE**

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An outbreak of suspected tick paralysis occurred on a dairy farm in district Attock, where in two Jersey cows (5 years old) and 3 cow calves (10 days, 5 month and 1 ½ year) died over a two weeks period. The animals were fed in the same manger. The constituents of feed included jawar, lucern, wheat straw and concentrate. The first clinical manifestation of the disease was grunting followed later by anorexia, trembling and paraplegia. Foreleg paralysis in calves and hind leg in cows was observed. The rectal temperature of affected animals varied from 105 to 106°F. Microscopic examination of faeces was negative. Haematological observations were as follows:

RBC =  $4.5 \times 10^6$  /cu.mm (decreased)WBC =  $3.5 \times 10^3$  /cu.mm (decreased)

HB = 6 gm/100 ml (decreased)

PCV = 20 gm/100 ml (decreased)

N = 10% (decreased)

L = 25% (decreased)

M = 0% (decreased)

E = 1% (decreased)

B = 0% (decreased)

On postmortem examination, the spleens were enlarged, gall bladders were swollen and large intestines were inflamed, congested and haemorrhagic. The cows were treated with sulphadimidine and atropine sulphate but the animals died. Similarly, calves treated with Inj. Tribriksen also did not recover.

**Diagnosis**

Blood examination after treatment became very close to normal. Blood was sent to Diagnostic Laboratory, Livestock and Dairy Development Department, Rawalpindi and NARC, Islamabad. No viral, bacterial or fungal infection was present. It was proposed that paralysis could be due to tick paralysis that was confirmed by the diagnosis of ticks (*Hyalomma* species) present on the body of the animals.

**Treatment**

In the mean time, disease was not diagnosed, the other suffering cows were treated with:

Inj. Dinaterra 25 ml I/M for five days

Inj. Novococ forte 250 ml I/V

Inj. Reuflogin (antipyretic) 15 ml I/M for two days

All the animals recovered

**Conclusion**

Tetracycline is also effective against tick born fever (Urquhart *et al.*, 1985).

**REFERENCE**

Urquhart, G.M., J. Armour and J.L. Duncan, 1985. Veterinary Parasitology, 1<sup>st</sup> Ed., Great Britain.