Research Paper

LAMENESS DUE TO TICK INFESTATION IN SHEEP

Soundararajan C\textsuperscript{1*}, Muthukrishnan S\textsuperscript{2} and Latha B R\textsuperscript{1}

*Corresponding Author: Soundararajan C, soundarvet1970@yahoo.com

A total of 450 Madras red sheep were examined for lameness at Livestock Research Station, Kattupakkam, Tamil Nadu for a period of 3 years from April 2004 to March 2007. Out of these, 98 animals had lameness in which only one animal had two engorged ticks in the inter digital space of right hind limb. The ticks were identified as \textit{Hyalomma marginatum isaaci}.

Keywords: Tick, Sheep, lameness

INTRODUCTION

Lameness in sheep is caused by various factors namely bacteria and virus which leads to the animals showing inability to walk, improper feeding and abscess. This paper deals lameness due to tick infestation in Madras red sheep.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

A total of 450 Madras red sheep were examined for lameness at Livestock Research Station, Kattupakkam, Tamil Nadu for a period of 3 years from April 2004 to March 2007. A total number of 98 animals showed symptom of difficulty in walking, repeated licking of the hoof and the recumbency. The animals were examined to know the reason for lameness. The infected hoof was thoroughly washed with water and examined for the presence of thorn, wound, abscess or infection. One sheep was infested with 2 engorged ticks. The ticks were collected and identified as per Kaiser and Hoogstraal, 1964.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Out 450 animals examined, 98 animals had lameness. Out of 98 animals, 97 animals had lameness due to foot rot infection and only one animal had two engorged ticks in the volar aspect of the creamy border and also in inter digital space of right hind limb without any foot rot lesion (Figure 1). The ticks were identified as \textit{Hyalomma marginatum isaaci}. The infested sheep showed swelling at the site of bite of the ticks which caused lameness. The longirostrate tick, \textit{H.m.isaaci} tick is capable of causing deep injuries feeding on...
CONCLUSION

It has been concluded that the lameness in Madras red sheep in Tamil Nadu, India was caused by longirostrate tick, *Hyalomma marginatum isaaci*.

REFERENCES


