FENBENDAZOLE * - AN USEFUL DEWORMER FOR ELEPHANTS

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Bendazole group of drugs being broad spectrum and effective anthelmintics are quite safe. Now a days they have a wide application for routine deworming in domestic animals. These are being marketed in different forms such as powders, boli and suspensions. When used orally in doses of 5-15 mg/Kg. body weight, are quite effective in controlling majority of the internal parasites in the domestic animals. It is further claimed that these drugs act on all the stages of the internal parasites..

Trematodes have been reported to cause disease in elephants. Severe infections of Fascioliasis have been responsible for ill health and death in Asiatic elephants. Various drugs have been tried with varying success (Fowler 1978). The present communication deals with the therapeutic application use of fenbendazole in elephants for the removal and prevention of trematodes in elephants of Bandhavgarh, National Park in Madhya Pradesh.

The present observation communicates the use of fenbendazole (Panacur) in elephants of Bandhavgarh National Park showing the symptoms of parasitic infection, such as eating of earth, passage of worms in their faeces, loss of body weight and death of two elephants due to perhaps heavy parasitism.

Out of 14 elephants belonging to the National Park of Bhandavgarh, faecal samples of 4 elephants were found positive for the presence of *Paramphistoma* eggs. Microscopic finding and history of earlier deaths in this group lead to the suspicion of focus of this infection in the National Park. These findings necessitated a routine deworming of all the elephants which were kept in semi captive environment.

Panacur brand of fenbendazole was used and given orally @ 5 mg./Kg. body wt. in bolus (1.5 gm.) form which constituted a total dose of 10-15 boli for each elephant weighing around 3000 - 4500 Kg. Single dose treatment was given to 14 elephants of various ages and body weights. The second dose was repeated after 3 weeks and then regular deworming every 3-6 months was practiced between 1993-1995. Their faecal samples were examined microscopically after 7-8 days of 2nd dosing which did not reveal any thing specific.

These elephants were regularly dewormed every 3-6 months using Panacur brand of fenbandzole from Hoechst India Ltd. Bombay, in the same doses without any side effects. Since then there is no serious sickness reported from the National park and the elephants are in good health as observed in recent visit by one of the authors. The drug was found acceptable and equally effective in all age group of animals.

*** Panacur bolus from Hoechst India Ltd. Bombay.**

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RESEARCH NOTE

Treatment of Tetanus in an Elephant - A successful case report

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Incidence of tetanus in captive elephants is found to be less as compared to other animals. Six cases of tetanus were recorded in captive elephants in Kerala previously and all of them died during the course of treatment. An adult tusker was brought for treatment with a history of a fall from a lorry and consequent loss of one of its tusks. The elephant showed off feed , partial locked jaw, salivation, inability to swallow, stiffness of the limbs and neck, muscular tremors and inability to walk and lie down. Immediately after diagnosing the condition the elephant was given intramuscular injections of [1] Novalgin 90ml, [2] Avil 80ml, Crystalline penicillin 400 lakhs and [3] Esgipyrin 75 ml. and intravenous infusion of Antitetanus serum 2,00,000 units, Diazepem 250 mg, Polybion 50 ml and 5% Dextrose saline 10800 ml. This line of treatment was repeated on the second day also and the elephant showed marked improvement. The elephant was able to flex its limbs and walk some distance and also started to eat palm leaves and drink water. All the drugs except Antitetanus serum were administered for two days more and the elephant fully recovered by restoring normal intake of feed and water.

1. Analgin 0.5 gm/ml Hoest India Ltd.
2. Pheniramine Maleate Hoest India Ltd.
3. Phenylbutazone 750 mg
   Analgin 750mg
   Lignocaine hcl. 50mg per 5ml- S. G. Pharmaceuticals