
LABORATORY REPORTS:**KALE ANAEMIA, RINGWORM, INTERSTITIAL PNEUMONIA**

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Kale Anaemia in Deer

"Kale anaemia" occurs in ruminants that graze on some brassica crops for prolonged periods. The clinical signs include haemoglobinuria, jaundice, increase in pulse rate and a drop in milk production in dairy cattle. There may also be growth retardation.

In this case 10-month-old weaners were fed on a crop of kale. They were well grown but weight has barely been maintained and animals have lost their bloom. The deer were weighed and have gained no weight over the last two months.

One of the three animals sampled had a low haemoglobin, a low PCV with increased reticulocytes and heinz bodies present, ie heinz body anaemia consistent with kale anaemia.

Summary

Kale anaemia has been recorded in cattle and sheep. This case indicates that deer can also be affected.

Reference Smith RH 1978) Vet. Science Communications 2, 47-61

Ringworm in Deer Stags

Parapox infection is the commonly recognised disease causing proliferative, scabby lesions on deer antler.

However we have had two cases where ringworm fungi, Trichophyton verrucosum was involved.

In one case a mob of two year old stags were affected with scabby lesions over the head and lips. The lesions looked typical of pox virus infection but on some the lesions looked more like ringworm. Fungal spores and hyphae were seen in a direct examination of the scab material submitted.

Trichophyton verrucosum was isolated.

In the second case one three year old stag in a mob of 30 showed circular scabby lesions on the head and velvet. There were no lesions on the feet or body.

Again fungal hyphae and spores were seen on direct examination (wet preparation) and Trichophyton verrucosum was isolated.

The samples were not checked for pox virus but these results suggest that ringworm can also be involved in scabby skin lesions of deer.

Interstitial Pneumonia in Fallow Deer Fawns

Five fallow deer fawns died from a group of 28. They died suddenly with no clinical signs. The deaths occurred over a 7 day period.

Fixed tissues were submitted from three animals. In all three there was a spectacular interstitial pneumonia resembling the so-called "Fog Fever" of cattle or atypical interstitial pneumonia.

In the initial sections I was unable to make a diagnosis. Ruakura and Auckland Animal Health Laboratories have seen similar cases in fallow deer in the North Island.

In recuts of the slides after careful examination I was able to identify parasite larvae.

Lungworm have been implicated in some cases of interstitial pneumonia in cattle in the United Kingdom and it appears that a similar syndrome can occasionally occur in deer.

Ref. Breeze RG et al (1976) Atypical Interstitial Pneumonia and Fog Fever. Vet Record 98 138-9