

JOURNAL OF CAMEL PRACTICE AND RESEARCH

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Subscription : Annual subscribers are advised to send the subscription for the year 2018 and onwards in favour of “**Camel Publishing House**” Bikaner. Renewals should invariably be done before April every year so that the number of subscribers may be ascertained before the next issue of the Journal of Camel Practice and Research (JCPR) is published.

SUBSCRIPTION RATE - 2018

ANNUAL

Rs. 4000/- or US \$ 400

Note : Subscription in Rupees is applicable to Indian subscribers only.

Publisher : The **Journal of Camel Practice and Research** (Triannual) is published by the “**Camel Publishing House**” 67, Gandhi Nagar West, Near Lalgah Palace, Bikaner-334001, India. Phone : 0091-151-2527029, email: tkcamelvet@yahoo.com

Cover Design: Intranasal infection with *B. melitensis*

Courtesy: Dr. U. Wernery

Printer: Sankhla Printers, Vinayak Shikhar, Near Polytechnic College, Bikaner-334003, India.

Phone: 0091 - 151 - 2242023

BEAUTY AND SCIENCE OF CAMELS

The Arab world has shown love and respect to camels which is evident by hosting a unique beauty competition for camels with strict norms for its judging. Twelve camels have been disqualified from Saudi Arabia's annual camel beauty contest after receiving botulinum toxin injections to make their pouts look more alluring. This year's event has been mired in scandal after the lure of 20m Saudi riyals (£3.7m) in prize money for each category tempted some owners to cheat. On the other hand camel science is also rolling with the pace of time. A prion disease similar to that which causes "mad cow disease" in cattle has been discovered in camels, veterinarians confirmed the fatal degenerative disease in camels in Algeria. Laboratory tests positively confirmed Camel Prion Disease (CPD) in three animals, suggesting the disease was present in 3.1 per cent of the camel population presented for slaughter at the local abattoir. Attention is drawn towards nuclear techniques that would help diagnose camel disease in the Middle East. Veterinary diagnosticians from Bahrain, Iraq, Kuwait, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates met at the FAO/IAEA laboratories in Austria. International experts trained them in modern molecular virus detection techniques (Genetic sequencing) to detect and control the virus. CVRL Dubai lab testing Mers vaccine in a bid to stop spread from camels to people. The UAE is among a handful of countries that have been most severely affected by Mers coronavirus. Dromedaries, or one-humped camels of the kind familiar in the Gulf, are a "reservoir" for MERS-CoV: they carry the virus but do not fall ill. According to Dr Wernery there is no need to vaccinate adult camels, but you vaccinate camels when they are four, five, six months old, then they cannot transmit to humans.

The contributing authors of JCPR are happy by making it triannual as the wait period is reduced and more articles are published. Current issue has good focus on two review articles, i.e. stenoxenous parasites and camel meat production. Sero-epidemiology and serological tests for the diagnosis of brucellosis in *Brucella melitensis* experimentally infected dromedary camels. Other studies include Immunohistochemical and molecular studies and physiological studies included flow cytometric analysis of phenotype peripheral blood leukocytes, impact of racing on serum concentrations of bone metabolism biomarkers in racing arabian camels, angiotensin-like protein 3, expression and distribution of CYP2J gene in different part of the digestive system in bactrian camel and cerebrospinal fluid collection and its analysis in clinically healthy camels. Lymphoid tissue in the palatine tonsils, molecular identification of tick-borne zoonotic bacteria, parasitic profile of Saudi Arabian camels and concentrations of nutrients in six muscles of bactrian (*Camelus bactrianus*) camels. This issue has good papers on camel milk, i.e. machine milking parameters for an efficient and healthy milking, purification and thermal denaturation kinetics of serum albumin in bactrian camel milk, biochemical characterisation of camel milk from Punjab-Pakistan, determination of the bioactive potential (Antioxidant activity) during fermentation process.

I am sure that contributing authors would continue bestowing their trust in Journal of Camel Practice and Research which is a unique platform for strengthening the camelid literature on global basis.



(Dr. T.K. Gahlot)
Editor

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JOURNAL OF CAMEL PRACTICE AND RESEARCH

(Triannual In English Language, April, August and December Issue Every Year)

SUBSCRIPTION RATE - 2018

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