

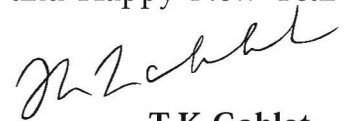
## EDITORIAL

### CAMEL POPULATION DATA - 2002

There had been a consistent decline in camel population in India. JCPR had been pointing out various factors responsible for such a decline, which needs urgent attention, e.g. droughts, shrinkage of pasture lands, indiscriminate buying of camels in animal fairs for slaughter within and outside country etc. Lack of appropriate schemes by government agencies for ensuring a reasonable growth of population of this desert animal also adds to a decline in camel population in India. According to the FAOSTAT database results India has slipped from 3rd to 5th rank in world camel population. Database reports 19,321,812 camels in the world, out of which top 5 countries are Somalia (6,200,000), Sudan (3,203,000), Mauritania (1,230,000), Ethiopia (1,070,00) and India (1,030,000). The countries holding 1000 or less camels are West Bank (659), Turkey (930), Lebanon (590), Gaza Strip (Palestine - 1000), Bahrain (920) and Republic of Azerbaijan (200). There is a need to update the camel population data as most of the publications still use these of 1992 or 1998.

Current issue of JCPR has dominance of manuscripts related to Physiology and Infectious diseases. Distribution of gama glutamyltransferase activity in the tissues, effects of heat stress and dehydration on body water distribution, gluconeogenic behaviour of camel hepatocytes, neurohypophyseal hormone profiles, osmolal and water clearances and effect of hot and cold ambience on renal clearances of electrolytes constitute camel physiology component of this issue. Mastitis caused by *P.haemolytica* and *Str. agalactiae*, brucellosis, bacterial microflora *S. aureus* associates with wounds and abscesses of camel skin and coagulase types of constitute the infectious disease part.

A manuscript on impact of Surra on camel husbandry and treatment of 3 llamas for suspected cerebrospinal nematodiasis with moxidectin constitute the part of the Camelid parasitology. This issue also contains one manuscript each on camelid immunology, disease, anatomy and reproduction. All papers are concerned to dromedary camels except two (parasitology and immunology) which belong to the new world camelids. This issue also contains a book review together with news and thesis abstracts. Dr. Lulu Skidmore of The Camel Reproduction Centre, Dubai, UAE deserves congratulations for hosting a short course on Camel reproduction and husbandry from 26-30 Jan 2003. The family of JCPR conveys Merry Christmas and Happy New Year 2003 to its readers.



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EDITOR