

JOURNAL OF CAMEL PRACTICE AND RESEARCH

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EDITORIAL

MERS Coronavirus in dromedaries

The Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) is drawing a serious attention from public health point of view. This emerging disease is caused by a corona virus and has killed more than 300 people most of them in Saudi Arabia. The transmission of this disease from camels to humans is documented. Over 90% of dromedaries on the Arabian Peninsula had antibodies against the MERS corona virus. According to the report MERS-CoV was recovered from nasal swabs of dromedaries, demonstrated that MERS-CoV whole-genome consensus sequences from dromedaries and humans were indistinguishable, and showed that dromedaries can be simultaneously infected with more than one MERS-CoV. These findings support the plausibility of a role for dromedaries in human infection. The virus that causes Middle East respiratory syndrome has been found in camel milk. Scientists don't know whether infected milk can sicken people, but experts say the results are reason enough to warn against drinking raw camel milk, a widespread tradition in the Middle East. The Qatari government has already issued new guidelines recommending that milk be boiled before consumption. The current issue has a short communication on epidemiological studies on MERS coronavirus in dromedaries in UAE.

Camels decline in India

The state of Rajasthan carried out a census 2012 and revealed that there are 324746 camels. The count in previous census 2005 was 430426 hence a decline of 105680 was recorded. State of Rajasthan has declared camel as a "State Animal" and would provide protection and conservation to this desert animal. Camels are prime tourist attraction in the state and camel research is being conducted in two premiere institutes in Rajasthan, i.e. College of Veterinary and Animal Sciences, Bikaner and National Research Centre on Camels, Bikaner.

Current issue with DOI numbers

Journal of Camel Practice and Research has entered in 21st volume and its June issue has 21 manuscripts with DOI numbers assigned to each article. A digital object identifier (DOI) is a unique alphanumeric string assigned to identify content and provide a persistent link to its location on the Internet. The publisher assigns a DOI when your article is published and made available electronically. There are five manuscripts based on camel nutrition out of which two are based on bactrian camels. The infectious diseases also occupy equal proportion with one important manuscript on epidemiological study on MERS coronavirus. The noteworthy manuscript on Parasitology comes from UAE where researchers did not find evidence of *Mycoplasma haemolamae* and *Anaplasma marginale*. Three studies on nutrition versus camel meat of Omani camels also find suitable place in the issue. However, other studies published are based upon physiology, production, anatomy, pathology and reproduction. This issue also contains a review of the new book, "Camelid Infectious Disorders" authored by Ulrich Wernery, Jorg Kinne and Rolf Karl Schuster and published by OIE is released. The book will prove a milestone in the field of camel science. The book is spread in 500 pages with five chapters, i.e. bacterial, viral, fungal and parasitic diseases in addition to the vaccination programme. Eminent and experienced authors have documented their deep knowledge spectrum of camelid infectious disorders through this book. Every chapter is full of information not only in terms of text but the description goes supported by table, flow charts, high pixel photographs.



(Dr. T.K. Gahlot)
Editor

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