

EDITORIAL

SAVING THE CAMEL IN RAJASTHAN

A dramatic decline in camel population of Rajasthan drew attention of Lokhit Pashu-Palak Sansthan (LPPS) at Sadri, Rajasthan State, India. This NGO organized an International Conference at Sadri from 23 - 25 November, 2004, wherein camel experts from India, France, Germany, Kazakhstan, Oman, United Arab Emirates and U.K. assembled and had a thorough discussion on the theme of the conference. Experts felt that the decreasing population is primarily due to Shrinking areas of grazing and the neglect of camels in policies and development programmes. Experts agreed that camel is an integral part of Rajasthan's ecology, economy and culture. Further to this, camel is a significant source of employment for the state, enables the local economy to withstand drought and is vital for Rajasthan's destination. Camel experts urged to conserve the camel in Rajasthan by developing an effective and comprehensive camel policy. They also urged to restore sufficient pasture land, improve camel health services, identify market opportunities for camel products and promote the camel carts as ecofriendly mode of transportation. Dr. Ilse Kohler Rollefson and Mr. Hanuwant Singh of L.P.P.S. deserve congratulations for organising this conference.

Current issue of JCPR includes papers on dromedary, bactrian and alpacas. The papers on alpacas are related to ectopic hydroureter and hydronephrosis and those of bactrians are related to the genetic diversity and cryptorchidectomy. The papers related to dromedaries were related to the diseases, reproduction, surgery, pathology, physiology and nutrition, pharmacology and agricultural engineering. This issue also contains book review, thesis abstracts and selected abstracts from the CABI publication.

I am delighted to share the information that the website www.camelsandcamelids.com is frequently being visited by the students, scientists and experts engaged in camel practice and research. Querries are often sent to me regarding availability of a subject specific literature. The list of contents of back volumes on the website has helped the researchers in retrieving the required topics of published information.

I Hope that camel experts will have good interaction at forthcoming camel conference scheduled to be held at Saudi Arabia later in 2005. I wish all subscribers a happy and prosperous new year 2005.



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