

THE VETERINARY PATHOLOGY REPORT

Australian Society for Veterinary Pathology
P.O. Box 483, Bairnsdale, Vic. 3875
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JULY 1984

NUMBER 5

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

A total of 52 members attended the conference in Sydney. It was pleasing to see almost 50% of the total membership arrive at the conference. Several visitors also attended. Two enlightening lectures on bacterial pathogenesis were given by the guest speaker, Dr. John Woolcock. These lectures may soon appear in print.

The AGM was held on the second day of the conference. Minutes from the AGM are included in this issue. Some of the major points include:

- The Constitution was passed unanimously.
- The motion to become an incorporated body was passed unanimously.
Bob Jones is the Public Officer and will keep us posted on the progress of our Incorporation.

MEMBERSHIP FEES

The membership fee is still \$10.00 and is due on 30th June. An invoice is attached to this issue. Please Pay Promptly.

Members who do not pay will be removed from the mailing list. If you paid at the conference and did not receive a receipt, you should find it enclosed.

NEW MEMBERS

Under the new constitution, new members must be nominated and seconded by current members. Application forms and membership criteria are available from the Secretary.

Please make new members of staff at your institute aware of the ASVP, and encourage them to join.

SLIDES OF THE MONTH

Unfortunately new members last year did not receive these Mystery Slides. However, this has been rectified and Dr. Clive Huxtable has volunteered to coordinate the slides again this year.

Please Note:- 1 set of slides only is sent to each institution. A list of members to whom slides are sent is enclosed. If the name or address is incorrect, please advise the secretary, Len Stephens, (051/52 2751). Members who receive the slides should make every effort to make them publicly available for ALL pathologists at their institution.

2.

VPR PUBLICATION DATES AND STATE REPRESENTATIVES

Members at the AGM requested that dates of publication of the Veterinary Pathology Report be announced. Since it is an Australia Post Registered Periodical (to decrease postage costs) it must appear at least 4 times per year, in the following months:

JANUARY

APRIL

JULY

OCTOBER

We aim to publish in the middle of the month. Members wishing to make announcements or contributions to VPR may send them directly to the Secretary or to their State Representative before the above dates.

State Representatives are:

Dave Pass	(09) 332 2211
Peter Phillips	(08) 228 7537
John Glastonbury	(069) 23 0929
Roger Kelly	(07) 377 2565
Barry Munday	(003) 41 5215
Owen Williams	(089) 52 2344

THE AVA AND THE AAVP

At a meeting on 15th May in Sydney, the AAVP ceased to exist as a special interest group of the AVA. Its activities were amalgamated with those of the Australian Association for Veterinary Teaching and Research (AAVTR), within the AVA.

CLINICAL PATHOLOGY POSITION AVAILABLE

Veterinary Clinical Pathologist

Applicants are invited for the position of Veterinary Clinical Pathologist to work in the Brisbane area.

Payment will be \$18,000 per annum and/or a profit share to be mutually arranged on an incentive basis.

Further details will be given on application. Please send applications, stating qualifications and experience to the ASVP, Secretary, P.O. Box 483, Bairnsdale, Victoria. The applications will be forwarded in confidence.

STATE REPORTS

1. TASMANIA - Barry Monday

"FALSE" oedema disease in weaner pigs

A consistent syndrome has been seen in weaner pigs from a local piggery. Pigs are found dead or occasionally are noted to be listless before dying. Main necropsy findings have been subcutaneous, intramuscular and perirenal oedema. Most pigs showed congestion of, and gas formation within, the terminal small intestine and colon.

Haemolytic E. coli and Cl.welchii, Type C, have not been isolated from the intestines. Liver Vitamin E levels have been normal, but selenium levels have been 1/3 of those found six months earlier. Deaths have decreased, but not ceased, since selenium has been added to the diet.

3.

Main histological finding has been the presence of thrombi in the capillaries of the lungs, myocardium, glomeruli and intestinal wall. There also was clotting of stagnant blood in the mesenteric veins and invasion of the gut wall by bacteria; "redgut" in this case seemed to be secondary to damage to blood vessels.

Haemorrhagic Diathesis in Calves Due to Furazolidone Poisoning

To control enteropathogens in a calf rearing establishment, newly purchased calves were placed onto feed medicated with furazolidone. The intended order of things was that calves would be brought in in batches and would therefore be placed on the medicated feed on a batch basis for a short period of 3 or 4 days, before moving on to a separate feeding area where they would receive unmedicated feed. However, because the batch processing 'broke down' some calves stayed on the medicated feed longer, whilst awaiting the completion of the passage of more recently acquired calves through their medication process.

Calves sickened and died quickly. Acute pasteurellosis was initially suspected, but has not been convincingly confirmed. Post mortem findings resembled bracken fern poisoning and there was also leucopenia and prolonged bleeding time in live sick calves. However, there was no access to bracken fern or to mouldy feeds.

Pathological changes seen in prolonged feeding of furazolidone to calves are consistent with those seen in these calves.

2. WESTERN AUSTRALIA - Dave Pass, Ron Peet

Nitrate/nitrite poisoning in cows grazing Capeweed

Although this is a well-known cause of nitrate poisoning it is not commonly confirmed as a cause. In this case the blood from a live affected cow was strongly positive for nitrite. The Capeweed had a greater than 10% Nitrate content and it is accepted that 1.5% is potentially toxic. Capeweed has grown rapidly during autumn because W.A. has had a heavy rainfall during May without low temperatures. The deaths occurred after the cows were yarded so presumably they rushed back out on to the paddock and engaged themselves.

Hypocalcaemia in sheep flocks heavy in lamb or lambing has been relatively common with recorded losses of 10-30%.

A case of exertional rhabdomyolysis in young fat weaner rams have been diagnosed. Sixty of 150 rams died after moving 3 times. Affected animals had myoglobinuria and acute myonecrosis. Vit E and selenium levels were more than adequate. The sheep had been fed on grain. During a farm visit it was noted that the sheep dog was very exuberant!

Trichomoniasis has been diagnosed on several occasions in flocks of Budgerigars and coccidiosis occurred in one flock producing heavy mortality (30-40 birds). Coccidiosis was difficult to detect clinically as oocysts were not seen in faeces however histological examinations revealed widespread destruction of intestinal mucosa with coccidial stages situated deeply in the lamina propria and submucosa.

3. NEW SOUTH WALES - John Glastonbury

Ephemeral Fever

Ephemeral Fever has found its way from Wingham (December 1983) through the lower Hunter Valley (January 1984) to Wyong and the outskirts of Sydney (April 1984).

4.

Following the wet summer period many suspected outbreaks of Mycotoxicosis have been investigated at Wagga Wagga. In addition, the profuse growth of sorrell and oxalis led to many instances of oxalate poisoning.

The current severe mouse plague has resulted in encephalomyocarditis virus spreading from the sunny north to the weaker environment of the Central West.

Conferences

Representatives from all laboratories were highly entertained and instructed by Professor King's two day seminar at Glenfield on 21-22 May. We thought so much of the experience that we have arranged for a repeat performance for veterinarians from throughout the Murray-Riverina Region on Monday 2 July, 1984.

Personnel

Two new Veterinary Research Officers have recently been appointed in New South Wales. Tony Ross, who is a Sydney graduate, presently completing a PhD in New Zealand, will commence duties at the Glenfield R.V.L. later in the year. The R.V.L. at Wagga Wagga will gain the services of Richard Whittington, who has been occupying a temporary RVO position, up at the North Coast "holiday farm".

4. QUEENSLAND - Roger Kelly

May was a stimulating month for those of us who were able to attend the second US-Australian Poisonous Plant Symposium, held at the Vet School from the 14-19 May, then go straight to the AGM of the ASVP in Sydney. The Poison Plants symposium was a great success; the highlight probably being R. Jones account of his work on the microbial degradation of toxic mimosine metabolites in the rumen. The US contributors illustrated the differences and similarities between their problems and ours.

The Australian end of the conference was ably organised by Alan Seawright and Merv Hegarty, and the full papers from the conference are to be published as a proceedings by University of Queensland Press towards the end of this year.

Peter Ketterer is currently investigating outbreaks of encephalomyocarditis in South-eastern Queensland; there have been outbreaks at Stanthorpe, Bethania and Caboolture, and one of these involved suckers 2-3 weeks of age; another affected pigs as old as 20 weeks.

Fish Disease Study Set

The National Fish Health Reference Laboratory has available a set of Kodachromes illustrating gross and histopathological changes associated with a range of diseases of fish. The study set is available free of charge to any interested organisation or person. Requests for loan of the set should be made to; Dr. J.D. HUMPHREY, National Fish Health Reference Laboratory, Regional Veterinary Laboratory, P.O. Box 388, BENALLA. VIC. 3672

SLIDE OF THE MONTH MAILING LIST

The mailing list, in abbreviated form is shown below. If your institution is not represented, or if you wish the contact person at the institution to be changed, please contact the Secretary, Len Stephens.

5.

ADAMS N, DIVISION OF ANIMAL PRODUCTION, CSIRO, WEMBLEY, WA. 6314
ALLEN J, ANIMAL HEALTH LAB, DEPT OF AGRICULTURE, JARRAH RD. SOUTH PERTH
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CHICK B, REGIONAL VET LAB. PRIVATE MAIL BAG, ARMIDALE. 2350. N.S.W.
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RICHARDS R, REGIONAL VET LAB. DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE, ALBANY, W.A. 6330
RIFFKIN G, REGIONAL VET. LAB. DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE, ALBANY, W.A. 6330.
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SUMMERS B, NYS COLL. OF VET MEDICINE, CORNELL UNIVERSITY, ITHACA, N.Y.
THACKER L, ANIMAL DISEASE DIAGNOSTIC LAB. PURDUE UNIVERSITY, W. LAFAYETTE.
TRUEMAN K, ANIMAL RES. INSTITUTE, 665 FAIRFIELD RD, YEERONGPILLY, QLD.
UTTERIDGE T, DIAGNOSTIC LAB. SERVICES, 47 SOUTH TERRACE, ADELAIDE.
WILLIAMS O, PO BOX 2134, ALICE SPRINGS, NTH TERRITORY. 5750.

6.

A.S.V.P ANNUAL. GENERA. MEETING
SYDNEY, MAY 20, 1984
MINUTES

1. Attendance - 32 members were present.

Apologies received from I.McCausland, M. Barton and T. Nicholls. Proxies received from D.Pass, T. Nicholls, and C. Hanningan. In Dr. McCausland's absence, the meeting was chaired by Dr.R. Jones.

2. 1983 Minutes

Moved that the minutes be accepted, King/Lenghaus. Carried.

3. Treasurer's Report

Moved that the report be accepted, King/Sims. Carried.

4. Membership

Current membership is 127.

5. Constitution

The original motion, plus the 2 amendments described in the agenda were passed unanimously. We are now a constituted body. Members requiring a new copy of the constitution should contact the Secretary. Anyone wishing to change the constitution should submit a motion to next year's AGM.

6. Incorporation

The motion to become incorporated was passed unanimously. Dr. R. Jones was elected Public Officer.

7. Elections

The old committee was re-elected unopposed.

Committee Members:

President	I. McCausland
Secretary	L. Stephens
Treasurer	I. Jerrett
Committee	R. Jones
Committee	R. Badman

8. Membership Fees

Moved that the fee remain \$10.00. Rahaley/Sims. Carried.

9. Veterinary Pathology Report

After some discussion, it was determined that the format should remain the same, except that the length of case reports be decreased.

10. General Business

- a. Slide of the Month - Dr. C. Huxtable has offered to co-ordinate this service again for 1984-85. Owing to our enlarging membership, the number of slides required is approaching 40. Therefore, keep more than 1 block of good material.
- b. New Zealand Pathology & Slide Collection. This is a valuable resource. Anyone wishing to use it, contact Dr. Bill Hartley in New Zealand.
- c. Whale Strandings - Dr. David Obendorf, Mt. Pleasant Laboratory, Launceston South, is coordinating a veterinary sub-plan in cooperation with the Wildlife Diseases Association. Members wishing to know more about this should contact David.
- d. Relationship of ASVP to Pathobiology Chapter of the Australian College of Veterinary Scientists

ASVP members who are also members of the ACVSc Pathobiology chapter noted the potential for cooperation between these two groups. In its present state the Pathobiology chapter exists primarily as an examining body, while the role of the ASVP is scientific/representation.

A working party composed of Neil Sullivan (Chairman), Clive Huxtable, Susan Friend and Cor Lenghaus was established to explore possibilities.

11. Next Meeting

Resolved that the next meeting should be in Melbourne or Sydney, back-to-back with another conference. The theme will be renal pathology, or ultrastructural pathology.

L.R. STEPHENS
SECRETARY

