

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

LETTRES À LA RÉDACTION

Border disease — a cause of terminal ileitis in lambs?

Dear Sir:

We are writing in regard to our paper entitled "Terminal ileitis in lambs" (1), published in the April 1990 issue of the CVJ. We have become aware recently of additional information that may shed some light on a possible cause of this condition. To date, no definitive cause of terminal ileitis appears to have been established, although some researchers have associated *Campylobacter* spp. with this disease (2,3). However, in 1983, in their studies of border disease, a condition caused by a pestivirus similar to that of bovine virus diarrhoea in cattle, Barlow *et al.* (4) described diarrhoea and intestinal lesions in persistently-infected lambs. These intestinal lesions involved primarily the cecum and colon, but also, in some individuals, up to 10 cm of the terminal ileum. The gross appearance of the affected intestine was characterized by "slight thickening of the bowel wall to gross swelling of the muscle coats, subserous and submucous oedema, diffuse and polypoid hyperplasia of the mucous membrane, mucosal hyperaemia, ulceration and haemorrhage (4)." The gross and histological lesions described by Barlow *et al.* (4) in lambs involved in their study were strikingly reminiscent of those that we observed in lambs affected by terminal ileitis (1). As well, one of us (PNN) observed, in some lambs, characteristic lesions that involved not only the ileum, but also the jejunum, cecum and colon. In light of the findings described by Barlow *et al.* (4), we feel that it is appropriate to suggest that a cause of terminal ileitis may be border disease and that appropriate virological studies of lambs affected with terminal ileitis are in order. Another recent paper on this subject expressed a

similar view (5). We wish to thank Norman Harries for drawing to our attention the similarities between some lesions of border disease and those of terminal ileitis in lambs.

References

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3. Vandenberghe J, Hoorens J. *Campylobacter* species and regional enteritis in lambs. *Res Vet Sci* 1980; 29: 390-391.
4. Barlow RM, Cardiner AC, Nettleton PF. The pathology of a spontaneous and experimental mucosal disease-like syndrome in sheep recovered from clinical Border disease. *J Comp Pathol* 1983; 93: 451-461.
5. Ulvund MJ, Teige J. Regional ileitis in lambs. *Res Vet Sci* 1990; 48: 338-343.

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Euphemisms for "euthanize"

Dear Sir:

I agree with your efforts to keep our language simple and direct i.e. euthanize vs. euthanatize (*Can Vet J* 1990; 31: 416). I practice in an area of New York City where my clients tend to be well educated and articulate. I continually strive to avoid medical terms or jargon in order to enhance communication and understanding to my clientele.

I have long referred to euthanasia as "bringing the animal to a dignified and gentle end". I studiously avoid the "put him to sleep" terminology. Recently,

a family including a young lad brought their dog to be euthanized. In describing what I would do, I used my usual euphemism. The lad asked, "Aren't you going to put him to sleep?"

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