

A PRELIMINARY SURVEY ON THE INCIDENCE OF Q FEVER ANTIBODIES IN THE SERA OF MANITOBA CATTLE

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SINCE DERRICK'S REPORT in 1937 (1) Q Fever has been found in various parts of the world. Reports of work done in British Columbia (2), Ontario (3), and Quebec (4) indicate that the infection is present in Canada.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Early in 1960 a survey was initiated in the Province of Manitoba. The Provincial Public Health Laboratory undertook to test all available human sera. The Provincial Veterinary Laboratory was assigned to test bovine sera. The capillary tube agglutination test was used. Stained antigen was supplied by Dr. J. A. McKiel, Chief, Zoonoses Laboratories, Ottawa. The circumstances were auspicious, as at the time Federal personnel in the laboratory were testing Brucellosis Control Area cattle for brucellosis. A daily flow of 800 to 1500 blood samples provided ample material for testing.

Because of the method of recording, herd identity of the samples was not available by the time the samples were tested for Q Fever antibodies. However, each veterinarian's samples were identified by his name on the blood sample racks and hence the municipality of origin of the cattle was available. The blood samples were unpacked and set up in rows of 5 in 20 tier racks. Each day that testing was undertaken, racks were selected to cover all the municipalities represented. Since this was a preliminary survey, only the first sample of each tier in each rack was tested, that is, 20% of the samples.

RESULTS

Due to the pressure of other work, testing was suspended for varying periods of time. However, to date 16,615 tests have been conducted on cattle from a total of 108 municipalities. On only three occasions were positive reactors encountered. It was expedient in these cases to dig into the files and identify the herds. Total herd samples were called in and retested, with the following results.

Herd No. I.	25 head	—	1 positive
II.	34 head	—	14 positive
III.	50 head	—	7 positive

Blood samples obtained from the herd owners and their families failed to show Q Fever antibodies.

SUMMARY

The testing of random samples of blood sera from cattle in a major part of the agricultural area of Manitoba indicates that the incidence of Q Fever is probably very low.

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Q FEVER IN MANITOBA

RÉSUMÉ

L'épreuve sérologique, d'échantillons de sang de bovins prélevés dans les principales régions agricoles du Manitoba, révèlent que l'incidence de la fièvre Q est probablement très minime dans cette province.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

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REFERENCES

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ABSTRACT

"Do Non-professional Services Defeat the Practice of Veterinary Medicine? SCHULZ, K. D. *Sm. An. Clin.* 2: 457. 1962.

Dr. Schulz states that veterinarians who offer non-professional services downgrade the practice of veterinary medicine. With the elimination of these services relationships between veterinarians would be improved by reducing bickering and price cutting and the practitioner would have more time to devote to medicine and surgery. Additional benefits are increased income, stronger veterinary organizations and fewer worries for the veterinarian to share with his families.—*D.C.M.*

ABSTRACT

"Suspected Skeletal Survey in the Dog. HOLMES, J. R. *Vet Rec.* 74: 801. 1962.

The author describes a condition in 3 dogs which on clinical and radiological evidence was diagnosed as skeletal scurvy. Urine samples were analyzed from 2 dogs and these had low ascorbic acid (Vitamin C) levels.

Two of the 3 dogs responded to ascorbic acid therapy (500 mg. daily for approximately 6 to 8 weeks). The dog that did not respond to treatment had widespread vascular changes but whether these were the cause of, or the result of, the failure to respond is not known. The author postulated that inability to synthesize vitamin C was the most likely cause of the deficiency. This appears to be a metabolic peculiarity of certain individual animals.—*D.C.M.*