ovariohysterectomy. Three cases are used to discuss the best available management options for the treatment of pyometra. Case 1: a two year old Boer bull diagnosed with open pyometra caused by Escherichia coli. Case 2: a Doberman bitch with post partum metritis caused by Escherichia coli. Case 3: one and a half year old terrier cross with open pyometra of unknown etiology. Case 1 & 2 were managed medically using oxytocin and high doses of chloramphenicol while case 3 was managed surgically by ovariohysterectomy. Both case 1 & 2 recovered completely and case 3 died of other complications. Current trends in the management of pyometra include the use of antiprogestins (alizine) and dopamine agonist. This paper aims to review the current medical treatments available comparing them with present practices at the University of Nairobi Clinic.

ARETROSPECTIVE STUDY OF THE CLINICAL SIGNS OF FELINE EHRLICHIOSIS IN NAIROBI, KENYA

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A retrospective study of feline ehrlichiosis was conducted to determine the clinical signs in cats examined in the period 1998-July 2008 at the Small Animal Clinic of the University of Nairobi. Of the 402 cats presented, a total of 41 (10.2%) cats were diagnosed to have ehrlichia-like inclusions based on microscopic examination of Giemsa stained blood smears. Based on the clinical records and confirmation of ehrlichia-like inclusion bodies in the leukocytes, the clinical characteristics were analysed. The predominant signs of the disease were anorexia, pale mucous membranes, lethargy, lymphadenopathy, fever, loose hair, ocular discharge and weight loss. The body temperature ranged from 37.5°C to 40°C. The females were overrepresented among the cats with the disease. The cats were treated with Imidocarb Dipropionate and those presented back for the second treatment 14 days later all had either clinically recovered or were markedly improved. It is important for clinicians to include ehrlichiosis as part of the differential diagnosis when cats are presented with the above clinical signs. *Corresponding author: jmkita@uonbi.ac.ke

MORPHOMETRIC COMPARISON OF THE OLFACTORY MUCOSA OF SUCKLING AND ADULT DOGS

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Olfaction enables puppies to orient appropriately to their mother and adult dogs to track and catch prey and to identify mating partners. A morphometric analysis was carried out on the olfactory mucosa of puppies aged 4–6 weeks and dogs aged 15–24 months. Epithelial thickness, olfactory and supporting cell densities, olfactory cilia length, thickness and number per dendrite, and diameter of olfactory axon bundles in the lamina propria of the mucosa were compared. The period between suckling and adult age was characterized by a significant increase (p < 0.05) in the thickness of the olfactory epithelium (64.7 ± 1.7 μm in puppies to 72.5 ± 2.9 μm in adults) and a rapid change in epithelial cell numbers, which involved a more drastic increase in the density of neuronal cells (22.5%) than of supporting cells (12.5%). Further, there was a marked increase in length, thickness and number of cilia per olfactory cell knob, and cross-sectional diameter of axon bundles within the propria of the mucosa. The structural modifications of the mucosa of the adult, particularly on the olfactory cells, may occur in response to olfaction demands that accompany maturation in the dog.
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IMPORTANCE OF ENVIRONMENTAL HYGIENE IN REDUCING BACTERIAL-LOAD EXPOSURE TO NIGHT-HOUSED INDIGENOUS CHICKENS

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Areas where the local village chickens retire to at night are normally heavily contaminated as birds stay there the whole night (12 hours or more) and retire to the same areas every evening. Bacterial contamination occurs as a result of excretion from the birds through oro-nasal route and/or defaecation. There is also re-infection of the respective birds by the bacteria; cross infections occurring amongst them. This results in the chickens becoming more and more laden with bacteria, some of which are pathogenic or could be pathogenic to animals (including birds) and humans; especially when stressed. Some of these bacteria that have been demonstrated in chickens are species of *Escherichia, Staphylococcus, Streptococcus, Salmonella, Pasteurella, Klebsiella, Listeria, Campylobacter*. Reduction of the bacterial load through cleaning and disinfection of these areas will reduce the bacterial carriage of the birds and thus reduce the resultant environmental bacterial contamination. Screening of disinfectants, in order to enable use of the effective ones, is recommended.

**IMPROVING WILDLIFE SURVEILLANCE FOR ITS PROTECTION AND FOR THE BENEFIT OF MANKIND**

Dr. Christopher Wanga

Wildlife diseases are of growing concern worldwide. In addition to threatening the population of wild animals themselves, wildlife diseases can affect domestic animals and also human health. This is particularly true in the present day when emerging zoonotic diseases, increasingly come to our attention in the new context of globalization of movement of commodities and climate change. Furthermore, the legal and illegal wildlife market, estimated at a minimum of $6 billion worldwide is growing rapidly and contributing to the global dissemination of new pathogens and emerging diseases. A new and better understanding of diseases present in wildlife and their effect on wildlife, domestic animals and humans is of key importance in order to develop control measures. Locally, the Kenya Wildlife Service collaborates with partners such as the Veterinary Services in Kenya to a limited extent such that much of the disease status of the wild animals is largely undocumented. This challenge can be surmounted by collaborative efforts from all stakeholders such as the Government, educational institutions and professional bodies to ensure that surveillance of wildlife is exhaustive to reduce them being a potential source of infection for domestic animals and man.

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**PAIN AND ITS MANAGEMENT: PERCEPTIONS OF FINAL YEAR VETERINARY STUDENTS**

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A survey of the perceptions of pain and its management among final year veterinary students of the University of Nairobi was carried out using questionnaires before and after an intervention (a seminar purposely designed to emphasize issues of pain and its management). Information sought from the students included their views on what is pain, manifestations of pain in animals, whether pain in animals should be controlled / managed or not and why, knowledge of drugs / techniques used in the control / management of pain and their sources of information on pain. The questionnaire return rates were 66.7% and 29.2% for before and after the intervention, respectively. Prior to the intervention, 27.1% of the respondents viewed pain as an unpleasant sensory experience while another 27.1% viewed it as an unpleasant emotional experience. The remaining 45.8% viewed pain as an unpleasant sensory and emotional experience associated with discomfort / trauma / disease. Those with the latter view increased to 90.5% after the intervention. On average, more students were aware of the signs of pain in large animals as compared to small animals before and after the intervention. The main reasons in support of control / management of pain prior to the intervention were to ensure animal well being, for animal comfort and improved animal welfare while after the intervention, the most important reasons advanced were to ease handling especially during surgery, to ensure animal comfort and reduce animal suffering. Respondents were knowledgeable on the classes of drugs used for control / management of pain with NSAIDs being ranked first followed by general anaesthetics, both before and after the intervention. The
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