(O-1)
Leptospirosis hardjo-bovis: A Silent Profit Robber

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Novartis Animal Health Inc., USA

Objective: To inform people of the potential financial losses due to infertility, early embryonic deaths, and culled cow expenses. To review the available diagnostic methods, treatments, prevention methods, and modes of transmission of Leptospirosis hardjo-bovis.

Leptospirosis hardjo-bovis is a genetically distinct serovar that the standard L5 vaccines do not contain. Leptospirosis hardjo-bovis is host-adapted to cattle. Cattle serve as a reservoir to continue shedding the organism. Leptospirosis hardjo-bovis colonizes in the kidneys and reproductive tract. Testing is very difficult for the organism. Animals with a history of fertility problems should be tested. Leptospirosis hardjo-bovis can cause infertility, early embryonic death, decreased milk production, and decreased weaning weights. Prevention is the best solution to avoid the economic consequences that this organism can cause.

(O-2)
One Medicine - the changing role of the veterinary practitioner

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Objective: This is a position paper addressing the need for communication, cooperation and interaction between practicing veterinarians and physicians.

Narrative: The events of 9/11 have forever impacted the lives of North Americans and served to globalize the reality of terrorist attack. In assessing these attacks and the natural threats of emerging disease, the United States government learned that an assumption of government agencies interactively and effectively communicating was inaccurate. This generated recognition and concern regarding philosophical and practical separation of animal and human medicine. There is growing realization that our separation of human health and animal health is artificial and that there is and has always been intimate interaction between the two with regard to disease. The majority of disease agents of concern in a biological attack and responsible for emerging disease in humans are zoonotic. Effective response to any such threat will require professional interaction between veterinary practitioners, physician practitioners and government. In light of this, the concept of “one medicine” has been revitalized. In addition veterinary practitioners are beginning to be held accountable for animal related human disease occurrence in the pet-family unit and in public settings by the U.S. legal system. This presentation will discuss the need for veterinary and human practitioner interaction and the public health issues that are influencing this need.

(O-3)
Evidence-based public health using Leptospirosis in Trinidad as a case study

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Objective: To use the evidence-based process to determine if Leptospirosis is a problem in Trinidad by using GIS to identify spatio-temporal patterns in cases from 2000 to 2004.

Design: A total of 85 confirmed Leptospirosis cases were obtained from the National Health Surveillance Unit for the period 2000 to 2004. Co-ordinates of the addresses of these cases were recorded using GPS to identify spatio-temporal patterning and clusters. Data concerning gender, age and seasonality were also analyzed.

Results: Of the 85 cases obtained from the NSU, 70 (82.4%) were male and 15 (17.6%) were female. A total of 18 cases (21.2%) occurred in the <19 age group, 21 (24.7%) occurred in the 20-29 age group, 34 (40.0%) occurred in the 30-49 age group, 8 (9.4%) occurred in the >50 age group and 4 (4.7%) were unknown. Of the 7 deaths that occurred in the 5 year period, 2 (28.6%) were females and 5 (71.4%) were males. Significantly more cases occurred in the wet season (77.6%) than in the dry season (22.4%).

Conclusions: Leptospirosis is an underreported disease in Trinidad and the risk factors include seasonality, living conditions, and occupation. Awareness of the disease in the country is poor and effective public-awareness programs are needed to address this concern.

(O-4)
Leptospira infections in dogs and rodents in Trinidad

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