

USE OF DELTAMETHRIN ON TICK INFESTED SNAKES

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At the Alipur Zoo, Calcutta, it is observed that a number of snakes die just after hibernation (during February and March) due to tick infestation. During winter when snakes hibernate, heaps of straw are placed in the chambers for snakes to shelter under. Last winter, when the straws were removed, we found a large number of ticks on snakes like Indian Cobras, Rat Snakes, etc. The straw may have been carrying the ticks.

We had no references to treating ectoparasites of cold-blooded animals but had to administer some care, lest there were more snake deaths in the Zoo. We decided to use deltamethrin on the snakes for removing the ticks. Two snakes having profuse tick infestation were chosen -- one Indian Cobra and one Rat Snake which were very weak. Ten liters of deltamethrin (butox) solution (2ml/liter of water) was prepared in a bucket. The two snakes were dipped in deltamethrin solution for two minutes. Care was taken to keep the eyes and mouth from the solution. The snakes were then washed with fresh water and released in the chamber. Before releasing the snakes, their chambers were also sprayed with deltamethrin solution for five minutes and later washed with fresh water.

We found the snakes were tick-free and had resumed to eat normally within a week after the treatment.

Since there was no such scope for identification of the ticks, it is not reported here.

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USE OF IVERMECTIN IN TIGERS FOR REMOVING INTESTINAL PARASITES

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A Sundarban Tigress (*Panthera tigris tigris*) brought to the Alipur Zoo Garden was injured in her right leg. The tigress was also suffering from diarrhoea and anorexia. The tigress was kept in a squeeze cage for special attention and the faecal sample was examined directly under the microscope. A mixed infection of *Toxocara*, *Ancylostoma* and tapeworm was found.

The animal was given Ivermectin injection (Ivomec) 1% @ 1ml/50kg body weight, subcutaneously. After 24 hours, a good number of dead adult worms were found in the faeces. The treatment was continued for the next 48 hours. This was supplemented by Vitamin B complex injection @ 3ml./100 kg. body weight for five consecutive days. The diarrhoea had stopped within 48 hours of Ivermectin injection. The tigress was back to normal within five days. During the treatment only meat soup was provided.

Faecal examination was performed on three other tigers -- two males and one female. These big cats were also harbouring *Toxocara* and *Ancylostoma*. The animals showed symptoms of anorexia and occasional vomiting. They were also treated with Ivermectin 1% @ 1 ml/50 body wt. injected subcutaneously. After three days, the big cats became normal, feeding completely and also stopped vomiting. After seven days, their faecal samples were examined and were found to be infection negative.

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