



UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA

**THE ROLE OF THE RESPIRATORY MUCOSAL IMMUNITY IN
PROTECTION AGAINST *PASTEURELLA HAEMOLYTICA*
A2 INFECTION IN GOATS**

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AGAINST *PASTEURELLA HAEMOLYTICA* A2 INFECTION IN GOATS**

By

MOHD. EFFENDY ABD. WAHID

**A Dissertation Submitted in Fulfilment of the Requirements for
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TABLE OF CONTENTS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	ii
LIST OF TABLES	vii
LIST OF PLATES	ix
LIST OF FIGURES	xi
ABSTRACT	xii
ABSTRAK	xv

CHAPTER

1	INTRODUCTION	1
2	LITERATURE REVIEW	5
	<i>Pasteurella haemolytica</i>	5
	Pneumonic Pasteurellosis	6
	Pneumonic Pasteurellosis Status in Malaysia	9
	Background of Pasteurella Vaccination in Malaysia	10
	Mucosal Immunity in Respiratory Tract	13
3	ATTEMPTS TO STIMULATE THE BRONCHUS-ASSOCIATED LYMPHOID TISSUE IN THE LUNGS OF GOATS VIA ORAL ADMINISTRATION OF <i>PASTEURELLA HAEMOLYTICA</i> A2	
	Introduction	24
	Materials and Methods	25
	Animals	25
	Inoculum	26
	Experimental Design	26
	Sample Collection and Processing	27
	Immunoperoxidase Procedure	28
	Results	29
	Responses by the BALT.....	29
	Responses by the IgA-Producing Cells in the BALT	30
	Responses by the Mesenteric Lymph Nodes	31



Discussion	32
Summary	34
4 INTRANASAL STIMULATION OF THE BRONCHUS-ASSOCIATED LYMPHOID TISSUE OF GOATS AND ITS EFFECT ON <i>IN VITRO</i> COLONISATION OF <i>PASTEURELLA HAEMOLYTICA</i> A2	
Introduction	36
Materials and Methods	37
Animals	37
Inoculum	38
Experimental Design	38
The Study of BALT Reactions	39
<i>In Vitro</i> Colonisation Technique	40
Statistical Analysis	41
Results	42
Responses in the Number and Size of BALT	42
<i>In Vitro</i> Colonisation by <i>Pasteurella haemolytica</i> A2	46
Discussion	47
Summary	49
5 CELLULAR AND HUMORAL RESPONSES IN THE RESPIRATORY TRACT OF GOATS FOLLOWING INTRANASAL STIMULATION USING FORMALIN-KILLED <i>PASTEURELLA HAEMOLYTICA</i> A2	
Introduction	51
Materials and Methods	52
Animals	52
Inoculum	53
Experimental Design	53
Serology	54
Studies on BALT Response	55
Statistical Analysis	56
Results	56
Antibody Responses in Lung Lavage Fluid	56
Serum Antibody Responses	57
Responses by the BALT	59
Discussion	63
Summary	65

6	THE EFFECTS OF DEXAMETHASONE ON THE RESPONSE BY BRONCHUS ASSOCIATED LYMPHOID TISSUE TO INTRANASAL ADMINISTRATION OF FORMALIN-KILLED <i>PASTEURELLA HAEMOLYTICA</i> A2 IN GOATS	
	Introduction	67
	Materials and Methods	69
	Animals	69
	Inoculum	69
	Experimental Design	70
	Microscopic Study on BALT Responses	71
	Immunoperoxidase Staining	72
	Results	73
	Responses by the BALT	73
	Responses by the IgA-Producing Cells in BALT.....	75
	Discussion.....	78
	Summary	80
7	EFFICACY OF INTRANASAL ADMINISTRATION OF FORMALIN-KILLED <i>PASTEURELLA HAEMOLYTICA</i> A2 AGAINST INTRATRACHEAL CHALLENGE EXPOSURE IN GOATS	
	Introduction	82
	Materials and Methods	84
	Animals	84
	Preparation of the Inoculum	84
	Experimental Design	85
	Serology	86
	Bacterial Isolations	87
	Statistical Analysis	87
	Results	88
	Clinical Observations	88
	Pathological Observations	89
	Serology	92
	Microbial Observation	93
	Correlation Between Clinical Score, Lung Lesions and Serological Responses.	93
	Discussion	95
	Summary	97



8	VACCINATION TRIAL AGAINST PNEUMONIC PASTEURELLOSIS IN SHEEP AND GOATS USING A NEWLY DEVELOPED PASTEURELLA SPRAY VACCINE	
	Introduction	99
	Materials and Methods	100
	Sheep	100
	Goats	100
	Vaccine Preparation	101
	Experimental Design	102
	Statistical Analysis	103
	Results	104
	Serological Response by Sheep	104
	Serological Response by Goats	105
	Incidences of Pneumonic Pasteurellosis in Sheep Farm	107
	Incidences of Pneumonic Pasteurellosis in Goat Farm	108
	Bacteriology	108
	Discussion	108
	Summary	112
9	GENERAL DISCUSSION	114
	BIBLIOGRAPHY	123
	APPENDICES	134
	VITA	141
	PUBLICATIONS	142



LIST OF TABLES

Table		Page
3.1	The number of bronchus associated lymphoid tissue (BALT) and their average size in the lungs of goats following different treatments	30
3.2	The effects of oral administration of formalin-killed <i>Pasteurella haemolytica</i> A2 on the total number of cells and the percentage of IgA-producing cells in BALT of goats	31
3.3	The effects of oral administrations of formalin-killed <i>Pasteurella haemolytica</i> A2 on the size and cortex:medullar ratio of mesenteric lymph nodes of goats	32
4.1	Average size and number of bronchus-associated lymphoid tissue (BALT) in the lungs of goats following either a single intranasal exposure to live (group 1) or dead <i>Pasteurella haemolytica</i> A2 (group 2) or a double intranasal exposures to live (group 3) or dead <i>Pasteurella haemolytica</i> A2 (group 4).....	42
5.1	The average number of bronchus associated lymphoid tissue (BALT) in lungs of goats exposed twice to formalin-killed <i>Pasteurella haemolytica</i> A2.....	60
6.1	The average number and size of bronchus-associated lymphoid tissue (BALT) in the lungs of goats following intranasal exposure to formalin-killed <i>Pasteurella haemolytica</i>	74
6.2	The effects of dexamethasone on the average number of cells and the average percentage of IgA-producing cells in BALT of goats exposed to formalin-killed <i>Pasteurella haemolytica</i> A2.....	75
7.1	Average clinical score and extent of lung lesions after challenge with <i>Pasteurella haemolytica</i> A2.....	88



LIST OF PLATES

Plate		Page
4.1	The bronchus associated lymphoid tissue (BALT) of goats exposed twice to the dead <i>Pasteurella haemolytica</i> A2 showing two large-sized nodes containing numerous cells. Lymphoid nodule within the lamina propria of a bronchus. HE x400.....	44
4.2	The bronchus associated lymphoid tissue (BALT) of a goat exposed twice to the live <i>Pasteurella haemolytica</i> A2 showing a large node containing numerous cells. Lymphoid nodule located external to the muscularis mucosa. HE x400.....	44
4.3	The bronchus associated lymphoid tissue (BALT) of a control, unexposed goat showing small nodule containing several cells. Lymphoid aggregates associated with a bronchus. HE x400....	45
4.4	The bronchus associated lymphoid tissue (BALT) of a goat exposed once with live <i>Pasteurella haemolytica</i> A2 showing small nodule similar to those of control, unexposed goats. Lymphoid aggregate located external to the muscularis mucosa. HE x400	45
5.1	The bronchus associated lymphoid tissue (BALT) of goat at two weeks after the first intranasal exposure to formalin-killed <i>Pasteurella haemolytica</i> A2 showing small nodular-type BALT. HE x400	61
5.2	The bronchus associated lymphoid tissue (BALT) of goat at two weeks after the second intranasal exposure to formalin-killed <i>Pasteurella haemolytica</i> A2. The BALT are many and larger, containing more cells than previously. HE x400	61
5.3	The bronchus associated lymphoid tissue (BALT) of goat at three weeks after the second intranasal exposure to formalin-killed <i>Pasteurella haemolytica</i> A2. The BALT is markedly large, containing numerous cells. HE x400.....	62



5.4	The bronchus associated lymphoid tissue (BALT) of goat at four weeks after the second intranasal exposure to formalin-killed <i>Pasteurella haemolytica</i> A2 showing large nodular-type BALT. HE x400.....	62
6.1	The bronchus associated lymphoid tissue (BALT) of a goat killed at 1 day post-dexamethasone treatment showing a small aggregate with few cells. HE x400.....	76
6.2	The bronchus associated lymphoid tissue (BALT) of a goat killed at 21 days post-dexamethasone treatment showing a markedly small aggregate with few cells. HE x400.....	76
6.3	The bronchus associated lymphoid tissue (BALT) of a goat exposed to formalin-killed <i>Pasteurella haemolytica</i> A2 without the dexamethasone treatment showing a large nodule with numerous cells. HE x400	77
6.4	The bronchus associated lymphoid tissue (BALT) of a control untreated goat showing a small nodule. HE x400.....	77
7.1	Normal lungs of goat without any lesions or vaccination history.....	90
7.1	Lungs of goat vaccinated with the intranasal spray vaccine and challenged with live <i>Pasteurella haemolytica</i> A2 showing relatively no pneumonic lesions.....	90
7.2	Lungs of goat vaccinated with the oil adjuvant vaccine and challenged with live <i>Pasteurella haemolytica</i> A2 showing small area of pneumonia of approximately 10%.....	91
7.3	Lungs of a control unvaccinated goat challenged with live <i>Pasteurella haemolytica</i> A2 showing extensive area of pneumonia. Approximately 40% of the lung area were affected.....	91



LIST OF FIGURES

Figure		Page
4.1	The colonisation of <i>Pasteurella haemolytica</i> A2 in the lung tissues of goat with different treatments. Group 1 and 2 were intranasally exposed once to live or dead <i>P. haemolytica</i> A2 respectively while groups 3 and 4 were intranasally exposed twice to live or dead <i>P. haemolytica</i> A2 respectively.....	47
5.1	The serum antibody (IgM, IgA, IgG) responses in the lung lavage fluid of goats following intranasal exposures to formalin-killed <i>Pasteurella haemolytica</i> A2.....	57
5.2	The serum antibody (IgM, IgA, IgG) responses following intranasal exposures of goats to formalin-killed <i>Pasteurella haemolytica</i> A2.....	58
5.3	The size of bronchus associated lymphoid tissue (BALT) and the number of lymphocytes in the BALT responses by goats exposed twice to formalin-killed <i>Pasteurella haemolytica</i> A2....	59
7.1	Serum antibody levels of goats following intranasal vaccination (group 1), intramuscular vaccination (group 2) and mixed vaccination (group 3). Group 4 was the unvaccinated control...	93
8.1	IgG antibody response in serum of sheep following intranasal spray vaccination of killed <i>Pasteurella haemolytica</i> A2. Note the drop in IgG level below the cut-off point on week 4 after second vaccination due to <i>Haemonchus contortus</i> . The incidence of pneumonic pasteurellosis also increase during that period of time.....	105
8.2	IgG antibody responses in serum goats following intranasal spray of killed <i>Pasteurella haemolytica</i> A2 and alum precipitate vaccination subcutaneously. Note the incidence of pasteurellosis in the farm before vaccination (week -2 and 0) and the increase in IgG level during outbreak of pasteurellosis in the farm at week 6.....	106



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Faculty: Veterinary Medicine and Animal Science

Pneumonic pasteurellosis is one of the most important and devastating diseases in sheep and goats, causing great economic losses to small ruminant industry worldwide. The disease is caused either by *Pasteurella haemolytica* or *Pasteurella multocida* and *Pasteurella haemolytica* A2 is the most common isolate from sheep and goats in Malaysia, comprising approximately 38 per cent of the isolates from pneumonic lung lesions.

The disease is best controlled by vaccination, and systemic vaccination has been used for years with limited success. Stress, improper vaccination program and unpopularity of the vaccine among the farmers are some of the



reasons that have been associated with the persistence of the disease. Since the systemic vaccination failed to give promising results, studies on the role of mucosal immunity of the respiratory tract in controlling pneumonic pasteurellosis should timely be reviewed.

In this study, the bronchus-associated lymphoid tissue (BALT) in the lungs has been successfully stimulated by double intranasal exposures to either live or formalin-killed *Pasteurella haemolytica* A2 at two weeks interval. The size of BALT and number of lymphocytes in the BALT were significantly increased as early as week 2 post-exposure and remained high until week 4 post-exposure. At the same time, the level of IgA against *Pasteurella haemolytica* A2 increased significantly as early as week 1 post-first exposure and reached a peak level at week 6 post-exposure. The IgM appeared to be present for a short while, at week 3 post-exposure before the levels started to decline in the following week. Initially, the IgG increased gradually and insignificantly before it reached significantly high level at week 4 post-exposure, and remained high at weeks 5 and 6 at the time when the numbers of BALT continued to increase.

This study also revealed that intranasal stimulation of BALT was able to protect the lungs from colonization by *Pasteurella haemolytica* A2 during an *in vitro* study, thus prevent the lung surface from being adhered and invaded by



the organism. However, dexamethasone treatment which is similar to the effect of steroid released under stressful conditions, significantly reduced the number and size of the BALT, thus significantly reduced the percentage of IgA-producing cells.

Vaccination trial on goat farm using the pasteurilla spray vaccine intranasally showed good protection towards pneumonic pasteurellosis. Significant high levels of systemic antibody responses were also noted during the period of vaccination trial. The incidence of pneumonic pasteurellosis in the farm was markedly reduced.

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PERANAN KEIMUNAN MUKOSA PERNAFASAN DALAM MELINDUNGI KAMBING TERHADAP JANGKITAN *PASTEURELLA HAEMOLYTICA* A2

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Pasteurellosis pneumonia adalah salah satu penyakit terpenting pada kambing dan bebiri, mengakibatkan kerugian ekonomi yang nyata pada industri ruminan kecil serata dunia. Penyakit ini disebabkan oleh sama ada *Pasteurella haemolytica* atau *Pasteurella multocida*, dan *Pasteurella haemolytica* A2 merupakan isolat yang paling kerap diasingkan daripada kambing dan bebiri di Malaysia, merangkumi kira-kira 38 peratus isolat yang diperolehi daripada lesi pneumonia.

Penyakit ini boleh dikawal dengan baik melalui pemvaksinan, dan pemvaksinan sistemik telah digunakan selama bertahun-tahun dengan kejayaan yang terhad. Ketegasan, program pemvaksinan yang tidak sesuai dan ketidakpopularan vaksin di kalangan penternak adalah antara sebab-sebab yang dikenalpasti menyebabkan penyakit ini berterusan. Memandangkan selama ini pemvaksinan sistemik gagal untuk membuahkan hasil yang memuaskan, sudah sampai masanya kajian ke atas peranan keimunan mukosal pada trakus pernafasan dalam mengawal radang peparu pasteurellosis dipertimbangkan semula .

Dalam kajian ini, tisu limfoid berkait bronkus (BALT) dalam peparu telah berjaya dirangsangkan melalui dedahan berganda kepada *Pasteurella haemolytica* A2 yang hidup atau dimatikan dengan formalin melalui intranasal. Dedahan berganda dibuat dalam jangkamasa selang 2 minggu. Saiz BALT dan bilangan sel limfosit dalam BALT bertambah dengan ketara seawal 2 minggu selepas dedahan, dan mengekalkan ketinggiannya sehingga minggu ke 4 selepas dedahan. Pada masa yang sama, tahap IgA terhadap *Pasteurella haemolytica* A2 meningkat dengan ketara seawal minggu pertama selepas dedahan, dan mencapai kemuncaknya pada minggu ke 6 selepas dedahan. IgM hadir cuma sebentar, iaitu pada minggu ke 3 selepas dedahan, sebelum menurun pada minggu berikutnya. Pada peringkat awal, IgG meningkat beransur-ansur sebelum mencapai peningkatan bermakna pada minggu ke 4,

dan mengekalkan ketinggiannya pada minggu ke 5 dan 6, iaitu masa di mana bilangan BALT turut meningkat.

Kajian ini juga menunjukkan bahawa rangsangan melalui intranasal ke atas BALT mampu melindungi peparu daripada dikoloni oleh *Pasteurella haemolytica* A2, seterusnya menghalang permukaan peparu daripada dilekati dan dicerobohi organisma berkenaan.

Walau bagaimanapun, rawatan oleh dexamethasone yang mempunyai kesan yang sama seperti steroid sewaktu tegasan, mengurangkan bilangan dan saiz BALT dan turut mengurangkan peratusan sel yang menghasilkan IgA. Penvaksinan yang dilakukan di ladang ternakan kambing menggunakan vaksin semburan intranasal menghasilkan perlindungan yang baik terhadap penyakit pasteurellosis pneumonia. Gerakbalas antibodi sistemik yang tinggi dan ketara di dapati berlaku sewaktu kajian dijalankan. Pengurangan kadar penyakit pasteurellosis pneumonia di ladang berkenaan juga dapat dilihat dengan jelas.

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

Pneumonic pasteurellosis is one of the most important and devastating diseases affecting small ruminants worldwide. The disease is caused by either *Pasteurella haemolytica* or *Pasteurella multocida* (Donachie, 1993), although the former is frequently isolated from such cases in goats (Gilmour, 1992).

There are two biotypes of *Pasteurella haemolytica*, namely biotype A and T. Clinically, biotype A is associated with pneumonic pasteurellosis and comprises serotypes 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14 and 16. Biotype T, that comprises serotypes 3, 4, 10 and 15, is associated with systemic disease in young lambs. About 10 percent of the *Pasteurella haemolytica* serotypes remain untypable (Donachie, 1993). The development of the disease has been known to be associated with various stress factors particularly the environmental factors such as climate, transportation, nutrition and housing (Jubb *et al.*, 1985; Zamri-Saad *et al.*, 1989; Jasni *et al.*, 1991). Concurrent infections with parainfluenza type III virus, herpesvirus and *Haemonchus contortus* have also been shown to predispose animals to pneumonic pasteurellosis (Gilmour *et al.*, 1993; Zamri-Saad *et al.*, 1993a).

Various studies have been conducted regarding the use of vaccines to control pneumonic pasteurellosis in Malaysia (Zamri-Saad *et al.*, 1989; Chandrasekaran *et al.*, 1991; Zamri-Saad *et al.*, 1993b) however the results were inconclusive and the disease remains a major threat to the goat and sheep industry. Imported vaccines, such as HEPTAVAC-P (Hoechst, UK), Ovipast (Hoechst (M) Sdn. Bhd.) and Carovax (Wellcome, UK) have been used to control the disease with limited success rate (Wan Mohamed *et al.*, 1988). A locally produced formalin-killed oil adjuvant vaccine, incorporating *Pasteurella haemolytica* and *Pasteurella multocida* of unknown serotypes was also used unsuccessful in controlling the disease (Zamri-Saad *et al.*, 1989). However, an improved oil adjuvant vaccine that incorporating the locally isolated *Pasteurella haemolytica* A7 and *Pasteurella multocida* types A and D showed ability to protect the lambs when challenged with either *Pasteurella haemolytica* A2 or A7 (Zamri-Saad *et al.*, 1993b). Although the locally produced oil adjuvant vaccine gave better protection, its thick viscosity lead to difficulties in administration and caused swelling at the site of administration and lameness with uneventful recovery in approximately ten percent of vaccinated animals (Jamaludin, 1993).

The locally produced oil adjuvant vaccine has been shown to be able to stimulate good antibody response (Zamri-Saad *et al.*, 1993c). However, most sheep in various farms in Malaysia showed low antibody titre against pasteurellosis (Zamri-Saad *et al.* 1993d) and does not protect the animal from being contacted with pneumonic pasteurellosis, thus the disease

incidence remained high in many farms. This is probably due to the unpopularity of the oil adjuvant vaccine among farmers (Jamaludin, 1993) and the improper vaccination program provided by the vaccine manufacturer, which has been recognised as one of the contributing factors in vaccination failure (Zamri-Saad, 1996).

The respiratory tract, which is the route of infection for *Pasteurella haemolytica* (Gilmour *et al.*, 1991), is one of the mucosal tissues in the body which armed with mucosal immunity (Kaltrieder, 1976). Anderson *et al.* (1986) stated the importance of stimulating the pulmonary lymphoid tissue with effective methods that will provide substantial local cellular and antibody mediated immune responses (Kaltrieder, 1976).

Other factors that contribute to the success of vaccination include the method of vaccine administration (Mosier, 1993). Thus, with the uncertainties and difficulties encountered in systemic vaccination of animals against pneumonic pasteurellosis, other methods for the control of pneumonic pasteurellosis should perhaps be explored.

The objectives of this study are:

1. to stimulate the mucosal immunity in the respiratory tract of goats following either with intranasal or oral exposures to *Pasteurella haemolytica* A2.

2. to determine the mucosal immune responses following intranasal exposures to formalin-killed *Pasteurella haemolytica* A2.
3. to verify the immunosuppressive effect of dexamethasone on mucosal immunity of the respiratory tract following intranasal exposure to formalin-killed *Pasteurella haemolytica* A2.
4. to determine the protective role of mucosal immunity against intratracheal challenge with live *Pasteurella haemolytica* A2.

CHAPTER 2

LITERATURE REVIEW

Pasteurella haemolytica

Pasteurella haemolytica is a Gram-negative, small, non-motile, coccobacillus bacteria with slight pleomorphism and occasional bipolar staining (Adlam, 1989). The organism can easily be recognised upon cultivation on blood agar and show various sizes of beta zone haemolysis. Bovine blood appears to be superior for the demonstration of the organism when compared with ovine or horse blood (Soltys, 1979).

The organism can be separated into two biotypes, A and T (Donachie, 1993). Biotypes A and T from cases of ovine pneumonia can be distinguished based on different cultural, biochemical and pathological characteristics (Soltys, 1979). De Alwis (1993) recorded that the differences between biotypes A and T depend on their ability to ferment arabinose and not trehalose and vice versa. Both serotypes are heterologous in nature and sixteen serotypes can be differentiated by an indirect haemagglutination (IHA) test which distinguishes



sixteen different capsular antigens in the two biotypes (Donachie, 1993). Biotype A comprises serotypes 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14 and 16, while the biotype T contains serotypes 3, 4, 10 and 15. Ten percent remain untypable (Donachie, 1993).

All serotypes are pathogenic and serotype A2 is the most prevalent, comprises around 38% of all *Pasteurella haemolytica* isolates (Donachie, 1993). The most common serotypes isolated from pneumonic pasteurellosis of sheep and goats in Malaysia are serotypes A2, followed by A7 and A9 (Bahaman *et al.*, 1991). *Pasteurella haemolytica* serotypes A11 and A12 were also isolated from cases in Malaysia (Bahaman *et al.*, 1991).

Pneumonic Pasteurellosis

Pasteurella haemolytica can be found in nasopharynx of healthy animals as normal flora (Gilmour, *et al.*, 1991; De Alwis, 1993). Although the organism are present in the nasopharynx area, the animal are not clinically affected with pneumonic pasteurellosis (Mosier, 1993). Colostral immunity in lambs can last for approximately 4 to 5 weeks (Gilmour and Gilmour, 1989), but the duration of immunity following natural infection has not been fully investigated adequately (Mosier, 1993). The prevalence of respiratory infections and associated economic losses continues to be very high although various attempts have been

made to control the disease. It is difficult to control respiratory disease since respiratory infections often occur as a result of synergistic interactions between various pathogens (Busse, 1991). Many carriers of *Pasteurella haemolytica* will not always develop pasteurellosis and remained clinically healthy (Gilmour and Gilmour, 1989). This is because the exposure of respiratory pathogenic organism per se is not sufficient enough for the development of disease. Furthermore, the respiratory tract provides a variety of integrated defence mechanisms including mechanical non-immunological and immunological, which function in concert to prevent development of respiratory tract infections (Stratton, 1986). However, failure of any one or more of the lung defence mechanisms disrupts this stage of homeostasis resulting in pulmonary infection (Babiuk and Campos, 1993).

Various stress factors such as transportation, climate and housing stress (Jubb, *et al.*, 1985; Zamri-Saad, *et al.*, 1989; Jasni, *et al.*, 1991) could alter the normal homeostasis of the host. This favour the organism in such a way that it replicates much higher levels and migrates to the lower lung without being cleared by the normal defence mechanisms. The prevalence and numbers of *Pasteurella haemolytica* in the nasopharynx increase during stressful conditions, predisposing the host to pneumonic pasteurellosis (Gilmour, 1993). Outbreaks of the disease usually are sporadic and unpredictable (De Alwis, 1993; Gilmour, 1989) and is unlikely to develop a long lasting flock resistance in the farm.