UDC 619:616.99:615.284:636.975 (548.9)
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ANTHELMINTIC EFFICACY OF ALBENDAZOLE AND LEVAMISOLE AGAINST GASTROINTESTINAL PARASITES IN SRI LANAKAN ELEPHANTS AT UDAWALAWE, SRI LANKA

There was a fast increase in the number of elephants in ETH. Those elephants are coming from various places in Sri Lanka, and there is a tendency to bring wide range of gastrointestinal parasites of elephants into ETH. At the beginning of research there were only 41 elephants at ETH and it has risen up to 48 elephants- within three months. Since wildlife conservation is popular in world wide, there is a major veterinary importance of animal health and hygiene factor. Therefore, an understanding of the parasitological problems and appropriate prevention methods is needed for elephants, because elephants at ETH belong to the young category and share the same patch of lands and these lands also shared by wild and feral animals as well.

Elephants used for experiment were positive for strongyle and fasciola type of eggs. Treatment: Albendazole 0.75mg/kg body weight alone and Albendazole 0.75mg/kg body weight / Levamisole 0.75mg/kg body weight (combined treatment).

The efficacy of Albendazole alone at the dose rate of 0.75 mg/kg body weight for fasciola type EPTG in the day 5, in facsiola type EPTG was significantly different (P = 0.02) with treated group of elephants and untreated group of elephants. In the treated group of elephants showing a clear reduction in fasciola type EPTG from day 0 to day 5 but from day 10 to day 25 there was no difference with the untreated group of elephants.

In the treated group of elephants from ETH was showing 13.15 of mean count of strongyle type EPTG while group of untreated elephants was showing 11.83 mean count of strongyle type EPTG from day 5 to 25 treated group of elephants are showing a significant difference (P=0.00) in the strongyle type EPTG. In the treated group of elephants strongyle type EPTG was clearly dropped from day 0 to day 5 and gradually increasing the EPTG from day 10 to 25 by maintaining a low number than untreated group.

In the treated group of elephants facsiola type EPTG from day 5 to day 15 faciola type EPTG was showing a gradual growth in treated group of elephants and from the day 15 to 20 it showing a decline and again day 20 to 25 it is showing a growth (Figure 2.4) but mean number of facsiola type EPTG in the treated group of elephants was always showing a low number than untreated group.

This study showed that administering combined treatment for each elephant was significantly effective against gastrointestinal parasites in Elephants than administering Albendazole alone 0.75mg/kg body weight for each elephant.