ABOMASAL PARASITE SYNDROME IN NORTH AMERICAN ELK (CERVUS ELAPHUS)

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Abstract

The present study was carried out in order to identify the main causes of sudden deaths in North American elk (Cervus elaphus), and to determine if a parasitic disease could be implicated. Twenty-two North American elk were necropsied at the Veterinary Hospital at the University of Saskatchewan, and submitted for histological examination. Parasites were detected in the abomasal mucosa of all the cases. Abomasal parasite infections were confirmed in 18/22 (82%) of the cases. All deaths occurred at dates when abomasal parasitic infections were expected. No other cause of death was detected in these cases.

Introduction

The abomasal parasite syndrome is a common cause of death in North American elk (Cervus elaphus). This syndrome is characterized by sudden death due to abomasal parasite infection. Abomasal parasites, such as Trichuris spp. and Ostertagia spp., are common in North American elk. Abomasal parasites are known to cause significant morbidity and mortality in North American elk. The purpose of this study was to determine the prevalence and incidence of abomasal parasite infections in North American elk.

Case History

In February 2016, 10 elk (9 males and 1 female) were presented to the Tufts Veterinary Hospital in North America. The elk were presented due to sudden death or illness. The elk were examined postmortem, and samples were submitted for histological examination. Parasites were detected in the abomasal mucosa of all the cases. Abomasal parasite infections were confirmed in 18/22 (82%) of the cases. All deaths occurred at dates when abomasal parasitic infections were expected. No other cause of death was detected in these cases.

Clinical Findings

Abomasal parasites are an important cause of death in North American elk. Abomasal parasites, such as Trichuris spp. and Ostertagia spp., are common in North American elk. Abomasal parasites are known to cause significant morbidity and mortality in North American elk. The purpose of this study was to determine the prevalence and incidence of abomasal parasite infections in North American elk.

Table 1

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References


