

STUDY REPORTS

Title : Studies on "Wobbler Syndrome" in Horses.

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Objective A condition clinically similar to cerebrospinal nematodiasis or "Wobblers" has been observed for several years in the horses at the Royal Thai Army Breeding Farm at Kanchanaburi. Innes and Shoho¹ suggest this is a disease which may occur in man. Investigations of this condition included clinical observations, hematologic studies, cerebrospinal fluid studies and necropsies.

Progress Thirtyseven of 140 horses were found to have various stages of the wobbler syndrome. Affected horses ranged from six months to twelve years in age. The primary manifestations of the syndrome were an incoordinated gait, particularly in the rear legs, and staggering and falling when backing.

Microfilariae were found in the peripheral blood of two affected horses. In a previous survey done in March, 1967, 18 of 21 horses had microfilariae.

Cerebrospinal fluid samples collected from affected horses were within normal limits for total number of cells, differential counts, sugar, chlorides, and total protein.

Necropsy of characteristic cases revealed grossly visible focal areas of yellowish gelatinous softening in the brain. The areas ranged from microscopic sizes up to 1.5 cm. in size. They were found in and around the internal capsule, putamen, thalamus, and in the central white matter of the cerebral cortex. Microscopically, the areas were focal cavitations surrounded by malacia, demyelination, and loss of nervous tissue components in the area. Blood vessels and accompanying connective tissue formed a lacy spider web pattern throughout the area of malacia. Pigment laden "Gitter cells" were numerous in the area. No parasites were found although calcified and small fragments of foreign material were occasionally seen in serial sections of the lesions.

Summary Encephalomyelomalacia was found in horses with "Wobbler Syndrome". The etiology of this condition remains to be determined.

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