SHORT VETERINARY NOTES No. 4.

Sarcoptic Mange in the Black-backed Jackal. Canis mesomelas.

M. E. KEEP

Veterinary Research Officer,
Natal Parks, Game and Fish Preservation Board.

Sarcoptes scabiei is a mite parasitic upon many species of domestic and wild mammals. It has been found possible to transmit mites from one host species to another.

Trainer and Hale (1969) have reported Sarcoptic mange in red foxes and coyotes in the State of Wisconsin, U.S.A. The appearance, symptoms and sequealae described were very similar to those found in the black-backed jackal in Zululand.

Black-backed jackals, which are fairly common in Umfolozi and Hluhluwe Game Reserves, are often observed with little or no hair covering their bodies. The skin is thickened and wrinkled often with crusts on the surface formed by coagulation of cutaneous exudate. In mild cases the mite affects those parts of the body not heavily covered by hair such as the muzzle, tail base, hock and elbow.

Mild infections have little or no effect upon the jackal, except for the irritation produced by the parasites, causing frequent scratching. Extensive infection produces progressive emaciation and even death. The disease probably affects the population numbers of jackal.

The parasite feeds upon lymph which it obtains by piercing the skin. This is what causes the severe irritation. The frequent scratching causes added inflammation, the skin surface becomes broken, and second bacterial infection follows. The hair falls out as a result of these skin changes.

The diagnosis of Sarcoptic mange is provisionally made from the symptoms described above, and confirmed by the identification of the parasite in skin scrapings.

Histological examination of skin sections taken from a severe case showed severe inflammation, parakeratosis and acanthosis with the metazoan mange parasite within the epidermis. Micro-abscesses were also seen in the epidermis with numerous coccoid organisms. A calcified structure, perhaps a dead mite, was present in the dermis together with some mixed cell infiltration..

Dr. P. A. Basson of the Department of Pathology, Onderstepoort Veterinary Research Institute kindly undertook the histological examinations.

REFERENCE

1. Trainer, W. O. and Hale, J. B. (1969) Bull. Wildlife Disease Assoc. 5. 387.

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MOVEMENT OF SQUARE-LIPPED RHINOCEROSES

CERATOTHERIUM SIMUM SIMUM

COL. J. VINCENT, EDITOR

Issue no. 11 (1970) of this journal provided details of rhinos relocated to 31st December, 1969, at which date the total moved stood at 616.

The following additional movements were carried out from the Umfolozi Game Reserve complex during the seven months 1st January to 31st July, 1970:

EUROPE:			
Czechoslovakia: Dvur Kralove Zoo..	1 male	3 female ..	4
Netherlands: Arnhem Zoo	1 male	1 female ..	2
Spain: Barcelona Zoo..	1 male	1 female ..	2
United Kingdom: Whipsnade	7 males	13 females	20
United Kingdom: Woburn Park	3 males	3 females.	6
U.S.A.:			
New York	2 males	4 females	6
MOZAMBIQUE			
Maputa Game Reserve	4 males	14 females	18
Gorongoza National Park	4 males	8 females	12
TRANSVAAL:			
Komatipoort..	2 males	4 females	6
Naboomspruit	2 males	2 females	4
Vaalwater	2 males	2 females	4
PLUS died aboard ship on route to Europe:		1 female	1
	29 males	56 females	85

Up to 31st July, 1970, therefore, the total of animals moved stands at 701.

Lammergeyer, no 12 p 73
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