Abstract

Dehydration is the most common problem encountered in canine practice, as such the present study was undertaken. The dogs of Palam Valley of Himachal Pradesh were assessed in respect to types and degrees of dehydration. The haematological, biochemical and acid-base alterations in various types of dehydration were observed. Based on the observations of 543 cases, the overall incidence of dehydration was 11.43 per cent. The incidence of dehydration showed declining pattern from January till August and thereafter, it increased. Young dogs and the males suffered the most. All three types of dehydration i.e. isotonic, hypotonic and hypertonic were associated with gastrointestinal disturbances. Both the respiration and cardiac rates were significantly increased. Biochemically, hypoglycaemia, hypochloremia, hyperkalemia and increased blood urea nitrogen were observed. Acidotic dogs showed significant decrease in venous blood pH, base excess, standard bicarbonate and total carbon dioxide concentrations whereas concentrations of above were increased in alkalotic dogs. Both Ringers lactate and normal saline solutions were found effective in rehydrating the dogs suffering from acidosis and alkalosis giving a cure rate of 86.00 per cent, respectively.