Abstract

The study was conducted on 894 dogs presented at Veterinary Clinical Complex CSKHPKV, Palampur (H.P.). On the basis of history and clinical examination, dogs suspected for hepatic dysfunction were subjected to haemato-biochemical examinations, radiography and ultrasonography to confirm hepatic diseases. Among these, 26 dogs (2.91%) dogs with different hepatic dysfunctions were diagnosed, out of which 80.77% were of primary liver disorders and 19.23% were of reactive hepatopathies. Among primary hepatopathies, the acute hepatitis formed the largest group (57.69%) followed by cirrhosis (19.23%) and hepatitis with jaundice (15.38%) and a single case (3.85%) of hepatic tumour. The mean age of dogs having primary hepatic dysfunctions was higher (53.09 ± 9.23 months) than the dogs having reactive hepatopathies (23.80 ± 7.94 months). The dogs suffering from liver dysfunctions showed symptoms like inappetance/anorexia, ascites, vomition, dullness, constipation, fever, diarrhoea, pale mucosa, jaundice, weight loss, melaena and weakness. Haematological examination revealed significantly decreased haemoglobin and packed cell volume in primary hepatic dysfunctions and neutrophilic leucocytosis in hepatitis and reactive hepatopathy. The mean activities of aspartate aminotransferase, alanine aminotransferase and alkaline phosphatase were markedly higher in all the hepatic dysfunctions. Biochemical examination revealed hypoproteinaemia and hypoalbuminaemia in primary hepatic dysfunctions. Ultrasonographic
studies were found very helpful in evaluation of liver status and classification of hepatopathies. Following the combined therapy comprising hepatoprotectant (Silymarin), fluid therapy, liver extract, antibiotic, antiemetic and diuretics, 60 per cent cases of hepatitis and 40 percent cases of cirrhosis could be treated successfully.