Abstract

The association of man with dogs is as ancient as civilization and is inseparable. At present, there are an estimated 30 million dogs in India. One of the most frequently encountered problems in dogs in Palam valley is that of gastroenteritis. Epidemiological investigations based upon clinical records from January, 2000 to May, 2002 revealed prevalence of gastrointestinal disorders of dogs in Palam Valley to be 22.29 per cent. Gastroenteritis, enteritis and gastritis was present in 35.28, 24.72 and 40 per cent of the affected dogs respectively. Highest prevalence was in April when hot, dry and dusty environmental conditions prevail. Younger dogs suffered more with maximum incidence in the age group of 3 months to 1 year. A total of 84 cases (Gastroenteritis=37, Parasitic Gastroenteritis=6, Enteritis=20, Gastritis=21) were studied during the present investigation. Clinically, the rectal temperature and heart rate were elevated significantly in gastroenteritis and enteritis group. Dehydration was evident in all the groups, most in gastroenteritis. Study revealed that Toxocariasis, Ancylostomiasis and Dipylidium caninum infection were prevalent in dogs of
this region and cause gastroenteritis for which Piperazine hydrate, Pyrantel palmoate and combination of Praziquantel and Albendazole were found effective respectively. PCV and TEC were elevated significantly in gastroenteritis group. Neutrophillia was noticed in all groups except parasitic gastroenteritis. Biochemical study revealed hypoglycaemia, hypoproteinaemia, hypochloraemia, hypokalaemia and increased BUN in gastroenteritis, enteritis and gastritis. Calcium level was significantly low in gastroenteritis and enteritis while sodium was low in gastritis. Metabolic acidosis in gastroenteritis and enteritis and metabolic alkalosis in gastritis were predominant. *E. coli* and *P. mirabilis* were major offending organisms in gastroenteritis and enteritis respectively. Overall, isolates were sensitive to Gentamicin and Neomycin (100 %) followed by quinolone group and chloramphenicol. Bacitracin and Metronidazole were cent per cent ineffective. Seven different serotypes of *E. coli* were obtained from the 10 serotyped isolates. Combination of Ciprofloxacin and Promethazine along with supportive therapy proved effective for gastroenteritis while Norfloxacin proved better as compared to Nalidixic acid in treating canine enteritis. Promethazine proved to be an excellent antiemetic for dogs in diseases relating to gastrointestinal tract.