ABSTRACT

The study was conducted on 80 dogs presented at Teaching Veterinary Clinical Complex CSKHPKV, Palampur (H.P.) with the history of ocular or nasal discharge, respiratory distress, digestive disturbances, cutaneous lesions and nervous symptoms between November 2015 and April 2017. The dogs were screened for canine distemper infection by using Scanvet Canine Distemper Virus Antigen Detection kit marketed by Intas Pharmaceuticals Ltd., Ahmedabad (India). Out of total cases screened, 35 were found to be positive for canine distemper infection. The overall incidence of canine distemper was 2.34 per cent (35/1493) in the cases presented to College Veterinary Clinics. The infection was distributed more (40%) in younger dogs (< 6 month of age), males (82.85%) and in Mongrel dogs (51.43%). Most of the cases were presented in nervous form (54.28%) alone and in rest of the cases, combination of nervous form along with respiratory, digestive, cutaneous or ocular form in various combinations were presented. The prominent clinical signs were diarrhoea (2.85%) and vomition (2.85%) in digestive form; coughing (8.57%) and nasal discharge (22.85%) in respiratory form; pustules over ventral abdominal area (14.28%) and hyperkeratosis of nose and footpads (5.71%) in cutaneous form; ocular discharge (28.57%) in ocular form; generalized seizures(28.57%), myoclonus of head (25.71%), limbs (8.57%), abdominal muscles (11.42%), jaw champing (34.14%), incoordination and ataxia (14.28%) and hind limb paralysis (25.71%) in nervous form. Other clinical signs included anorexia, inappetance, dehydration and general depression. Haematology revealed neutrophilicleukocytosis along with lymphopaenia. Biochemically, hypoproteinemia and raised AST values were observed. Main histopathological findings were interstitial pneumonia, demyelinating changes in the brain besides swollen astrocytes with mild to moderate lymphocytic infiltration and hyperkeratosis of the foot pad. The symptomatic and supportive therapy was not much effective in treating the cases presented with nervous form of the disease as the recovery rate was only 16.67 per cent.

(Monika Sharma) (Dr. Des Raj Wadhwa)
Date: Major Advisor

Head of the Department