OMICS International
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J Veterinar Sci Technolo 2015, 6:5
http://dx.doi.org/10.4172/2157-7579.C1.010

Global Veterinary Summit

August 31- September 02, 2015 Orlando-FL, USA

Prevalence and potential risk factors associated with toxoplasmosis in small ruminants and equine in Dakahlia, Egypt

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Prevalence of toxoplasmosis was investigated in small ruminants (292 sheep & 81 goats) and equine (54 horses and 79 donkeys) from Dakahlia governorate, Egypt in the period from October 2013 - October 2014. The annually incidences were estimated by using latex agglutination test (LAT); indirect them agglutination test (IHAT) and enzyme linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) in sheep were (41.7%), (66.1%) and (62.0%) respectively, in goats were (49.4%), (64.2%) and (50.6%) respectively, in horse (50.0%), (72.2%) and (72.2%) respectively and (44.3%), (67.1%) and (68.4%) in donkeys respectively. The results of bioassay in cats revealed that 8 out of 25 slaughtered sheep (32.0%) and 9 out of 25 slaughtered donkeys (36.0%) were positive. Histopathological examination on bioassay positive case detected *Toxoplasma gondii* (*T. gondii*) tissue cysts in 3 (37.5%) and 4 (44.4%) in diaphragm muscles of sheep and donkeys respectively. The sensitivity of both ELISA and IHAT in sheep and donkeys was 100%. Regarding to host risk factors associated with toxoplasmosis, the results revealed that the sero-incidence was significantly higher in equine [horses (72.2%) and donkeys (68.4%)] than in small ruminants [sheep (62.0%) and goats (50.6%)] and in relation to the gender the females were higher than in males. There are high associations between the history of abortion and intensive rearing system with incidence of toxoplasmosis in sheep. It could be concluded that the equines and small ruminants play an important role in epidemiology of toxoplasmosis. ELISA test is the more suitable test in diagnosis of toxoplasmosis in small ruminant and equine. There are strong association between sero diagnosis of toxoplasmosis with intensive breeding, old ages and female in small ruminant and equine.

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Growth pattern and certain behaviors of ostriches (*Struthio camelus*) under farming condition in south India

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A study was conducted on ostrich behavior and growth at Unit of Livestock Research Station in India at 12.50 N, 80.070 S and 48 m above MSL. The behavior frequencies of feeding in tray, forage peck, inedible peck, air peck, feather peck and water peck were recorded while feeding concentrate for three hours daily. The body weight was recorded before feeding. The fortnightly body weight from second, fourth, sixth, eighth, twelfth and sixteenth weeks were 1.39±0.06, 3.78±0.18, 8.43±0.45, 14.03±0.69, 27.22±1.14 and 40.32±1.10 kg respectively. The monthly body weights from fifth to fourteenth month were 49.61±0.92, 57.10±0.95, 64.10±1.15, 72.48±1.32, 80.79±1.61, 88.93±1.83, 96.91±2.31, 102.89±2.13, 108.2±3.46 and 113.82±3.46 kg, respectively. Body weight gain from first to fourteenth months were 3.17±0.18, 10.34±0.59, 12.04±0.87, 13.50±0.85, 10.05±0.76, 7.61±0.46, 7.87±0.52, 7.87±0.45, 8.31±0.50, 8.31±0.40, 8.28±0.54, 6.99±0.75, 6.03±0.56 and 4.76±0.72 kg respectively. The morning , evening and total feed intake of seven ostriches 2-3 years of age were 8.846±0.145, 9.846±0.185 and 18.692±0.279 during summer respectively and water intake were 28.936±0.282, 42.746±0.379 and 71.682±0.661 respectively. Types of pecking behavior for feed in tray forage pecking, inedible object peck air peck, feather peck and water peck for male and female were 813.47±15.41 and 327.12±6.48, 45.60±1.38 and 110.15±45.60, 117.72±6.56 and 254.77±5.13, 17.90±0.84 and 273.60±4.86, 99.35±2.46 and 36.97±2.08, 66.27±1.62 and 56.10±1.72 pecks respectively. Behavior such as yawn and excretion between sexes were 0.500±0.09, 0.725±0.12 and 1.300±0.11, 0.975±0.09 respectively. Behaviors were significant (P<0.01) between sexes of ostriches.

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