

Dermatophilosis in Camels



Dermatophilosis is a skin disease caused by a bacterium called *Dermatophilus congolensis*. The disease affects many species of domestic and wild animals and occasionally, humans. It is most prevalent in the tropics.

The disease recognized as widespread in several camel rearing countries in the tropics causes severe skin matting resulting in hide depreciation, overall decrease in animal productivity and, in severe cases, mortality in susceptible weak animals.

Etiology:-

Dermatophilosis is caused by the gram-positive, non-acid-fast, facultative anaerobic bacterium *Dermatophilus congolensis*, the type species of the genus *Dermatophilus*, which is a member of the order Actinomycetales.

Epidemiology:-

Dermatophilosis was first described in dromedary camels in the Ol-Maisor farm in Laikipia, Kenya .The disease was found to be more prevalent in the wet season compared to its prevalence in the dry season. The calves were found to be more susceptible compared to the adults and the lesions were more severe involving most parts of the body than in the adults

Clinically the disease in affected camels appeared as hair matting especially on the rump, neck, flanks and lower abdomen with no lesions on the legs. When matted hair is removed, lesions showed hyperaemia with pus exudation. Lesions may also show hairless brownish crusts with irregular sizes.

Diagnosis:-

1. Microscopic observation: Diagnosis can usually be made by demonstrating the causal organism in scabs from the lesions or in exudate beneath the scabs.
2. Bacterial Isolation via culture.



3. Immunological methods via Immunofluorescence staining of smears or tissues.
4. PCR.
5. Serological tests using ELISA.

Prevention and control:-

No vaccine is currently available.

References:-

1. OIE Terrestrial Manual 2008, Chapter 2.4.10.
2. H. Agab and Amel O. Bakhiet- A review of Camel Dermatophilosis.
3. The Merck veterinary Manual.