Short Communication

INCIDENCE OF CONTAGIOUS ECTHYMA (ORF) IN GOATS IN AN ORGANIZED FARM

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An observation on the incidence of contagious ecthyma in goats was made at Mecheri Sheep Research Station, Pottaneri, Salem, Tamil Nadu, India, during summer season. Out of 154 goats maintained 20 of them had lesions suggestive of Contagious ecthema (orf). The affected animals were dull and depressed and had pyrexia. The external skin lesions were observed on the muzzle, nostrils and lips. The morbidity percentage was 13% and there was no mortality. Samples were collected from 30% of the affected animals (Dried scab in 50 % glycerol saline) and samples sent to Central University laboratory for confirmative diagnosis and out of six samples tested for orf, five scab samples were found positive by the polymerase Chain reaction. Affected animals were kept in isolation and treated with intravenous fluid like dextrose normal saline for restoring ionic balance, antibiotic (Streptopencillin) to prevent secondary bacterial infection, anti-inflammatory drugs (Meloxicam) and antihistamines (Pheniramine maleate). The B complex, vitamins and ragi gruel were drenched to the affected animals as supportive therapy, as they were anorectic due to painful oral lesions. Lesions were cleaned with Potassium Permanganate solution (1:1000). Ayurvedic treatment like Neem oil and Turmeric paste or glycerin and boric acid paste were applied on external lesions. Animals were completely recovered after two weeks of continuous treatment.

Key words: Zoonotic diseases, Weaning age, goats

INTRODUCTION

Contagious ecthema is one of the most important issues in the goat farm. It is a zoonotic disease. Orf frequently affects young ones during post weaning. It is caused by poxvirus family. The virus is epitheliotropic, it has an affinity for the skin. The infection occurs by direct contact and indirect contact from infected animals or by contact with infected saliva or tissue containing virus. Outbreaks occur more frequently during periods of extreme temperature such as late summer and winter. The lesions are found in the skin of the lips. They can spread around outside and inside the mouth, some times extensive lesions on the feet can lead to lameness. These lesions can persist for three weeks and can become site for the development of secondary bacterial infection. Most of the animals acquire immunity after contracting the diseases (Nandi et al., 2011)

MATERIALS AND METHODS

In an organized farm situated at Salem district of Tamil Nadu, the total goats maintained were taken for the study. Out of the 154 goats 20 of them had lesions suggestive of orf. The animals were separated and isolated. The affected animals were dull and depressed and had high fever. The external skin lesions were observed on the muzzle, nostrils and lips. Ten days after the onset of infection, the symptoms were spreaded to

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other animals also. The total about 75 goats were affected with the same symptoms. The samples were collected from affected animals (Dried scab in 50 % glycerol saline) and sent to Central University laboratory TANUVAS for confirmative diagnosis. Affected animals were kept in isolation and treated with intravenous fluid like dextrose normal saline for restoring ionic balance, antibiotic (Streptopencillin) to prevent secondary bacterial infection, anti-inflammatory drugs (Meloxicam) and antihistamine (Pheniramine maleate). The B complex, vitamins and ragi gruel were drenched to the affected animals as supportive therapy, as they were anorectic due to painful oral lesions. Lesions were cleaned with Potassium Permanganate solution (1:1000). Ayurvedic treatment like Neem oil and Turmeric paste or glycerin and boric acid paste were applied on external lesions (Karunanithi et al., 2006). (Fig.1 & 2)

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Out of six samples tested for orf, five scab samples were found positive by the polymerase Chain reaction. (Ramesh et al 2008). The morbidity percentage was 13% and there was no mortality found since timely treatment was started. Complete recovery of animals occurred after two weeks of continuous treatment. Only caprine species of all age groups and either sex were affected and the incidence of infection in sheep reared in the same farm was mild compared to goats. Similar finding was quoted by Kitching and Taylor, 1985.

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Fig: 1 Contagious ecthyma – Active phase

Fig: 2 Contagious ecthyma – After treatment