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Homeopathic treatment of acute gastro-enteritis in dogs

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Abstract

Background: The prevalence of gastro-enteritis is 11.51% in dogs with varied etiology some of organisms causing gastro -enteritis are communicable to pet friends.

Objective: To study the effect of Nux vomica CH200 and ipeca cuanha CH 200 in acute gastro-enteritis in dogs.

Materials and Methods: Thirty four dogs brought to Sreepathi veterinary Services, Kadapa, during 2008 to 2016 with gastro-enteritis were studied with Nux vomica CH 200 and Ipeca cuanha CH 200.

Results: All the treated dogs except one recovered eventually. Conclusion: Nux vomica and Ipeca cuanha controlled acute gastro-enteritis in dogs effectively.

Keywords: Acute gastro-enteritis, dogs, Nux vomica CH 200, Ipecacuanha CH -200

1. Introduction

The importance of dogs to man cannot be overstated. They are the most popular animal pets that even share the same environment with humans and have been trained to perform several functions. Gastroenteritis is a medical term referring to inflammation of the gastrointestinal tract usually the stomach and intestines.

The number of sick dogs diagnosed with and without gastroenteritis presented to the Onderstepoort Veterinary Academic Hospital situated north of Pretoria is reported from counts extracted from the records of the Outpatients clinic for 6 years, 1988 to 1993. The average percentage of sick dogs diagnosed with gastroenteritis was 11.51% [1] In a larger study from private veterinary practices in the States the reported frequency of diarrhea was 2.2% and for vomiting 2.1% during a one year period [2]. However, companion animals are potentially an important source of gastrointestinal infection [3]. Children are considered to be at particular risk because they spend considerable time in close contact with their pets [4] and also at greater risk of gastroenteritis [5]. Transmission between pets and humans (presumably through fecal-oral contact) has been estimated to cause more than 200,000 cases of gastroenteritis per year [6]. This situation calls for immediate remedial measures to plug the gastro-intestinal tract to save the suffering dogs and to check the spread of the disease to the handlers.

Diarrhea is considered Acute if it lasts for less than 14 days Chronic if it persists for longer than 14 days.(Armstrong) Acute gastroenteritis is a term used to describe a syndrome characterized by the sudden onset of vomiting and/or diarrhea caused by gastrointestinal mucosal inflammation [7].

Banfield opined that the diagnosis was seldom confirmed by histopathology evaluation; instead, it was based on a consistent clinical presentation and exclusion of other potential causes for the patient's clinical signs. Mucosal inflammation was assumed, but not proven to be present. Therefore, acute gastro-enteropathy was perhaps a more appropriate name [7]. Basing on his opinion, the present clinical study was planned.

A longitudinal study on diarrhoea and vomiting in young dogs of four large breeds, Saevik *et al*, reported that, both diarrhea and vomiting were relatively common in young dogs, occurring most frequently the first months of life. The incidence of diarrhea and vomiting was significantly different between the breeds. Diarrhea occurred more frequently in males and in dogs living in the urban areas. Also, a positive association between the occurrence of diarrhea and vomiting in the same dog found. The occurrence of both diarrhea and vomiting demonstrated a seasonal variation with a higher incidence during the summer months [8].

A report of diagnoses from over 2 million dogs in 2011 indicated that "gastroenteritis (GI upset)" and "colitis" both ranked in the top 19 diagnoses for dogs [7].

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It can be caused by infection with bacteria, viruses, parasites, or reactions to medications or new foods. It was observed that dogs with gastro-enteritis would reject and vomit out any liquid or solid or Allopathic medicine. They would accept only Homeo pills or drops As mentioned above occurrence of gastro-enteritis in dogs are due to various etiological agents, the veterinarian will have a formidable task to select a suitable remedy from antiemetics, gastroprotectants, antibiotics, antivirals, antifungals etc, When early diagnosis is not available or possible [9]. In this situation homeopathy may come to his rescue. He may have to pick one or two from basing on simulium.

The vomit may contain foamy, yellowish bile, especially after the stomach has been emptied. Many owners will observe "dry heaving" or "gagging" after their pet eats or drinks. Characteristically, there will be large volumes of diarrhea produced three to six times a day. The diarrhea may have a "soft ice cream" consistency and is often pale in color. Many dogs will be tender when picked up around the abdomen or will resist handling of the stomach and hindquarters. Most dogs affected with gastroenteritis will appear less active and have a decreased appetite. A low-grade fever is common. Dehydration can occur quickly if the vomiting and diarrhea persists for more than twenty-four hours [10].

Since there is no homeopathic proving references and a repertory are not available, in veterinary science, an array of homeopathic drugs namely Antimonium crudum, Arsenium album, China, Colocynthis, Cuprum metal, Ferrum phos, Mercurius corrosivus, Nux vomica, Veratrum album were screened. Two remedies Ipecacuanha and Nux vomica which were almost tallied with the symptoms of acute gastro-enteritis were studied.

According to Allen' key notes for 1) Ipeca cuanha, in all disease with constant and continual nausea with profuse saliva, vomiting of white, glary mucus in large quantities without relief, stomach feels related, as if hanging down, clutching, squeezing, griping, as from a hand, each finger sharply pressing into intestines; worse from motion. Flatulent colic about umbilicus, stools; grassy green, of white mucus, bloody, fermented, foamy, slimy like frothy molasses. Autumnal dysentery; cold nights, after hot days. Asiatic cholera, first symptoms, where nausea and vomiting predominate, for 2) Nux vomica catarrh, nausea, vomiting, irritable, impatient temperament, suffer from want of exercise with gastric and abdominal complaints [11].

2. Materials

Thirty four dogs brought to Sreepathi veterinary services, Kadapa. during 2008 to 2016 With the symptoms of gastro-enteritis, were included for clinical study.

Table 1

Number of dogs brought	Number of dos treated	Number of dogs cured	Remarks
34	34	33	One dog died, as the dog was brought in critical condition

3. Methods

The selected remedies were administered, every 30 minutes, alternately till complete cure was witnessed. In addition to, homeopathic treatment. On the second day, suitable ambulatory measures were adopted, to overcome dehydration and to give sufficient strength to dogs. Depending on the degree of dehydration, the fluid replacement was given orally, subcutaneously (beneath the skin) or by intravenous (IV) treatment. Food (and sometimes water) was withheld during the initial stages of treatment and then slowly reintroduced. Small, frequent feedings of a bland diet were prescribed.

4. Results

The selected medicines of gave tremendously results. The dogs were relived of distressing diarrhea and vomition. Out of 34 dogs, one dog brought with severe dehydration did not respond to homeopathy and succumbed; the dogs were active and healthy. Prior to medication, it was observed that dogs were reluctant to take any fluids, forcible medication were thrown out immediately resulting Great weakness and prostration. After the medication, the dogs accepted the fluids offered to them.

5. Discussion

The dogs responded well to homeopathic treatment. Unlike in allopathic, the treatment is simple, cheap and easy to administer. The assistance of veterinarian or para veterinarian is not required. The selected medicines of gave tremendously results. The dogs were relived of distressing diarrhea and vomition. The dogs were active and healthy. Prior to medication, it was observed that dogs were reluctant to take any fluids, forcible medication were thrown out

immediately resulting Great weakness and prostration. After the medication, the dogs accepted the fluids offered to them. The dogs responded well to homeopathic treatment. Unlike in allopathic, the treatment is simple, cheap and easy to administer. The assistance of veterinarian or para - veterinarian, is not required.

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