

Brucellosis in Camels

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ABSTRACT

Brucellosis is the second most important zoonotic disease in the world. The disease is an important factor of economic losses. It affects almost all domestic species, and cross-transmission can occur between cattle, sheep, goats, camels and other species.

Camelus dromedarius and *Camelus bactrianus* are frequently infected with *Brucella* organisms, especially when they are in contact with ruminants. Seroprevalence of 5% was reported in nomadic or extensively kept camels and high prevalence of 8–15% was reported in camels kept intensively or semi intensively. Spread of brucellosis in camels depends on the *Brucella* species prevalent in other animals sharing their habitat and on the husbandry methods of the different species. The clinical symptoms of infection include reduced appetite, slight lameness and bilateral lacrimation. In male camels, the disease is characterized by orchitis and epididimitis which might cause problem of sterility. In female camels, the disease causes abortion in pregnant animals, placentitis, uterine infections, fetal death and/or mummification, delayed maturity and infertility. However, the clinical signs are lower in camels than in cattle. The disease causes serious economic importance due to the productive and reproductive losses in animals as well as it's serious health risks in human.

It is important to follow strict control and preventive measures such as test-and-slaughter policy, regular vaccination and routine serological testing in order to reduce the incidence of infection.

Key words: Camel, Brucellosis, Mexico