

Dear Readers,

The articles presented in this edition are indeed special, dealing with veterinary issues of importance and of interest to us all.

Dr. Meytal Weiss Bakal *et al.*, presents an in-depth article dealing with The Veal Calf Industry in Israel and Worldwide with emphasis on Implications of Legislation on Animal Welfare and Public Health. The article is of special relevance to veterinarians dealing with farm animals and Animals Welfare. Here is an excellent example of issues resulting from interactions between animal welfare, production efficiency, consumer preferences, and public health considerations clash, and as a result affect concerns negatively affecting both the calf and the human consumer. In my opinion the article is an excellent example of the conflict between financial, ethical and a desire to gratify the consumer.

The methods carried out to produce Calf Veal to the liking of the consumer has been found to have profound effects of the young calves both physiologically and behaviorally. These methods need to be restricted as much as possible. An interesting aspect also mentioned is that these calf veal animals' diet makes the calves more prone to bacterial infections and to and increased resultant antibiotic susceptibility. This article should serve as an example for us veterinarians to follow closely ethical aspects of holding and breeding farm animals.

Drs. Gabzu *et al.* present a well-documented and comprehensive statistical article describing the Diagnosis, Mortality Rates and Risk Factors in Neonatal Foals Admitted to the Koret School of Veterinary Medicine, Veterinary Teaching Hospital at Beit Dagan in Israel. The article significantly differs from others presented from all over the world in that the majority of foals admitted for this study were of the Arabian breed. The Data serves as source of comparison with other hospitals carrying out similar studies. Studies such as these are important in order to identify potential risk factors for mortality in the septic foal populations on admission to hospitals.

Dr. Daniel Yasur Landau, and his team present an original article describing a case of a Southern white rhinoceros (*Ceratotherium simum simum*, Perissodactyla, Rhinocerotidae) which is a nearly threatened species, native to the savannah habitats of southern and eastern Africa. Zoo-kept populations in zoological institutions across the world play an important role in conservation by providing valuable medical and behavioral data, serving as important reservoirs of genetic diversity, while wild populations continue to decline in numbers. *Echinococcus equinus* (Cestoda, Taeniidae) is a cestode parasite, with a life cycle including canids that serve as its definitive hosts, and equids which are the intermediate hosts. Infection with *E. equinus* in non-equid intermediate hosts is rarely reported, and in rhinoceroses only a single case has been documented. Here they report the findings of autopsies of two Southern white rhinoceroses from two different zoos in Israel, both born in Israel and euthanized at ages of over 40 years. In both cases, prominent infection with fertile *Echinococcus* sp. cysts was found, which were identified as *E. equinus* according to *cox1* sequences. This is the first report of this parasite from Israel, and the source of the infection in both cases is yet to be determined.

Wishing you and your families a Healthy and Happy Jewish New Year.

Looking forward to your articles. The article's Citation index has improved substantially and
I am making every effort for further upgrading.

Sincerely,

Dr. Trevor (Tuvia) Waner

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