

FREQUENCY OF PREGNANT ANIMALS SLAUGHTERED AT FAISALABAD ABATTOIR

M.Z. KHAN*
AHRAR KHAN*

Information about slaughter of pregnant animals was collected from reproductive tracts of 772 buffaloes, 325 cows, 2340 sheep and 2023 goats from a local abattoir. Each tract was examined for the presence of pregnancy, right and left side containing single, twins or triplets.

The results showed that pregnancies were 11.65% in buffaloes, 8.61% in cows, 21.28% in sheep and 19.22% in goats. In buffaloes and cows, each pregnancy comprised of a single foetus. In buffaloes, the distribution of pregnancies was 51.11% on the right and 48.88% on left side whereas in cows, 57.14% on right and 42.85% on left side. These findings were not significantly different from those of Rind *et al.* (1) who recorded 60 and 58 per cent pregnancies on the right and 40 and 42 per cent on the left side in buffaloes respectively. In cows, Al-Dahash and Dvid (2) reported 61.54 per cent pregnancies on the right and 38.46 per cent on the left side which was also not significantly different from the present findings.

Among 498 pregnancies recorded in sheep, the number of foetuses was 598. Of these, the right side pregnancies yielded 239 (48%) single, 47 (9.43%) twins and one (0.20%) triplet whereas the left side pregnancies yielded 160(32.12%) single and 51(10.24%) twins. In goats, a total 457 foetuses were recorded from 389 pregnancies. Of these, the right side pregnancies yielded 190(48.84%) single and 38 (9.76%) twins whereas the left side pregnancies comprised of 131 (33.67%) single and 30 (7.71%) twins.

Slaughtering of pregnant animals for meat purpose is unethical and is contrary to the rules of slaughter under which only unproductive, infertile, sterile, old or accidentally injured animals are allowed to slaughter. Slaughter of pregnant animals frustrates scientific endeavours of geneticists, nutritionists and livestock breeders working for the propagation of animals species. It is a drain of breeding animals and thus widens the gap of animal proteins between the increasing human population.

There is therefore, an urgent need to salvage these useful animals from slaughtering by adopting following methods:

- i) The number of professional and technical staff working at an abattoir be increased so that antemortum examination of each animal particularly rectal palpation for pregnancy diagnosis is performed.
- ii) In small animals, like sheep and goats, techniques of endoscopy be used for pregnancy diagnosis.
- iii) Serum progesterone level of each female animal be determined before slaughtering as a screening test.

REFERENCES

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*From Department of Veterinary Pathology, University of Agriculture Raisalabad, Pakistan.