PROGRAM & ABSTRACTS

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Serum level evaluation of minerals including Na, K, Mg, P and Ca was aimed to compare in infected and non-infected stray dogs. Based on this, serum level of the minerals was evaluated in 28 seropositive and 17 seronegative to N. caninum in stray dogs using spectrophotometry and flame photometry techniques. Findings indicated that mean of serum level of K, Mg, P and Ca in seropositive stray dogs was higher than seronegative stray dogs. However, negative association was found between both examined groups; while this determinant was found significant for K in seropositive stray dogs.

It was concluded that further experimental studies are useful to obtain valuable data on serum mineral level changes due to N. caninum infection in stray dogs.

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**THE SURVEY ON FREQUENCY SOFT TICKS ARGAS AND ORNITHODOROS (ACARI: ARGASIDAE) RELATIVE TO GASES NH3 AND CO2 CONCENTRATION IN ANIMAL HOUSING**

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Ticks are haematophagous ectoparasites of vertebrates. In addition to biting, they cause anemia and transmit wide range of animal and human diseases. Typically habitat of these genera is crevices of nest birds, wild animal places and animal housing. When host enter these places ticks activity is started. Several factors for instance NH3 and CO2 concentration yield from fermented feces and animal's respiration are efficient in waking, activating and stimulating of ticks for blood feeding and host finding. In this study beside the collection of ticks the concentration of gases NH3 and CO2 according to ppm were conducted using the standard tubes equipped with detector (GASTEC). In the present study 142 animals housing in 76 villages located in Lorestan province were surveyed from the viewpoint of soft ticks infestation. Totally 3850 soft ticks were collected and it was determined that two genera Ornithodoros and Argas had relative frequency of 31 and 69 percent respectively. In this survey concentration of these gases inside each animal house was measured then the relationship between frequencies of any tick with the amount of these two gases was calculated. The results showed significant positive correlation (p < %1) in level of %1 and %5 with CO2 concentration for O. lahorensis and O. canestrini respectively, also there was significant difference in level of %5 between frequency O. lahorensis and O. canestrini with NH3 concentration (p < %1). Also no significant correlation was observed among Argas persicus frequency to none gases NH3 and CO2 (p < %5).

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**KLOSSIELLA MURIS INFECTION IN LABORATORY MICE**

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Klossiella muris is ordinarily nonpathogenic, although in heavy infections the kidneys may have minute grayish necrotic foci over their entire surface and the epithelium of the infected kidney tubules may be destroyed. For histopathological diagnosis of Klossiella muris infection, kidneys of 24 mice were studied that Klossiella in various stages of development were observed in the renal tubules of 4 (16.66%). The cytoplasm of infected tubular epithelial cell was markedly distended and the nucleus was
displaced to one side of the cell. In some instances, however, tubular epithelium was not discernible and the parasite seemed to lie in a cystic space. Small focal infiltrations of lymphocytes, plasma cells in the interstitium of the cortex and renal tubular epithelial cell degeneration and necrosis were seen in association with the parasite in some sections.

The parasite was identified as *Klossiella muris* based on host species, affected organ and morphological appearance. Due to the presence of *Klossiella muris* and its potential ability in creating histopathological lesions and reducing immune responses against different antigens, sanitation during mice breeding is recommended and emphasized to prevent adverse effects and obtaining false results in different studies.