DISEASES OF ANIMALS THAT PROVIDE A MAJOR PROTEIN SOURCE ARE OF GREAT CONCERN IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES SUCH AS PAKISTAN. HYDATIDOSIS Renders parts of these animals inedible, resulting in a great economic loss. WITHOUT PRECISE INFORMATION ON THE EPIDEMIOLOGY OF THIS DISEASE, IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO ASSESS THE LOSS OR TO Devise EFFECTIVE CONTROL MEASURES.

THIS STUDY WAS UNDERTAKEN BECAUSE THERE IS LITTLE PUBLISHED INFORMATION ON HYDATIDOSIS IN ANIMALS IN THE AREA WHICH PRESENTLY CONSTITUTES PAKISTAN. This survey was conducted for one year (September, 1980 — August, 1981) and was restricted tO four abattoirs in Lahore, Punjab, WHERE AT LEAST 1,000 ANIMALS ARE SLAUGHTERED DAILY. Viscera were examined superficially in the abattoirs, and diseased animals or tissues were taken to the laboratory for detailed examination. ANIMAL AGE WAS ASSESSED FROM DENTITION. SPECIES WAS EITHER DETERMINED FROM CYST MORPHOLOGY, OR THE IDENTIFICATION OF ADULT ECHINOCOCCUS GRANULOSUS FROM PUPTOES BY CYST MATERIAL UNDER CONTROLLED CONDITIONS.

THE OBSERVATIONS PRESENTED HERE ARE BASED UPON THE IDENTIFICATION OF INFECTED HOST LIVERS. HYDATIDOSIS WAS HIGHEST IN BUFFALO (12.3%, n = 1,175), THEN IN CATTLE (9.0%, n = 1,105), SHEEP (8.3%, n = 3,251), AND GOATS (7.6%, n = 3,300). PREVALENCE WAS GENERALLY HIGHER IN FEMALES THAN MALES (E.G., BUFFALO, 14.9% VS. 10.2%); CATTLE, 12.3% VS. 7.2%; SHEEP, 11.3% VS. 4.8%; AND GOATS, 8.4% VS. 6.9%)

IN SHEEP AND CATTLE THE DIFFERENCE IN INFECTIONS BETWEEN SEXES PRESENTED AT ALL AGES. HOWEVER, 15.8% OF 4-YEAR-OLD MALE GOATS WERE INFECTED, AND ONLY 7.1% OF FEMALES. SIMILARLY, IN 6—7-YEAR-OLD BUFFALO, THE PERCENTAGE OF FEMALES INFECTED WAS SIGNIFICANTLY LESS.

THOSE OBSERVATIONS SUGGEST THAT AN ALARMING LEVEL OF HYDATIDOSIS MAY EXIST IN PAKISTAN, AND THAT EXTENSIVE EPIDEMIOLOGICAL STUDIES IN ANIMAL BREEDING/MIXING AREAS ARE THEREFORE NEEDED.

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