

Tetanus treatment and prevention in Rajkot community, Pakistan

J. I. Gondal¹, S. M. Ali and S. Jaleel

Brooke Hospital for Animals (Pakistan) Punjab, Lahore- 54000, Pakistan



Introduction

- Tetanus is endemic in equines in Pakistan.
- Prophylactic intervention or early diagnosis and therapeutic treatment is imperative for survival.

Aims:

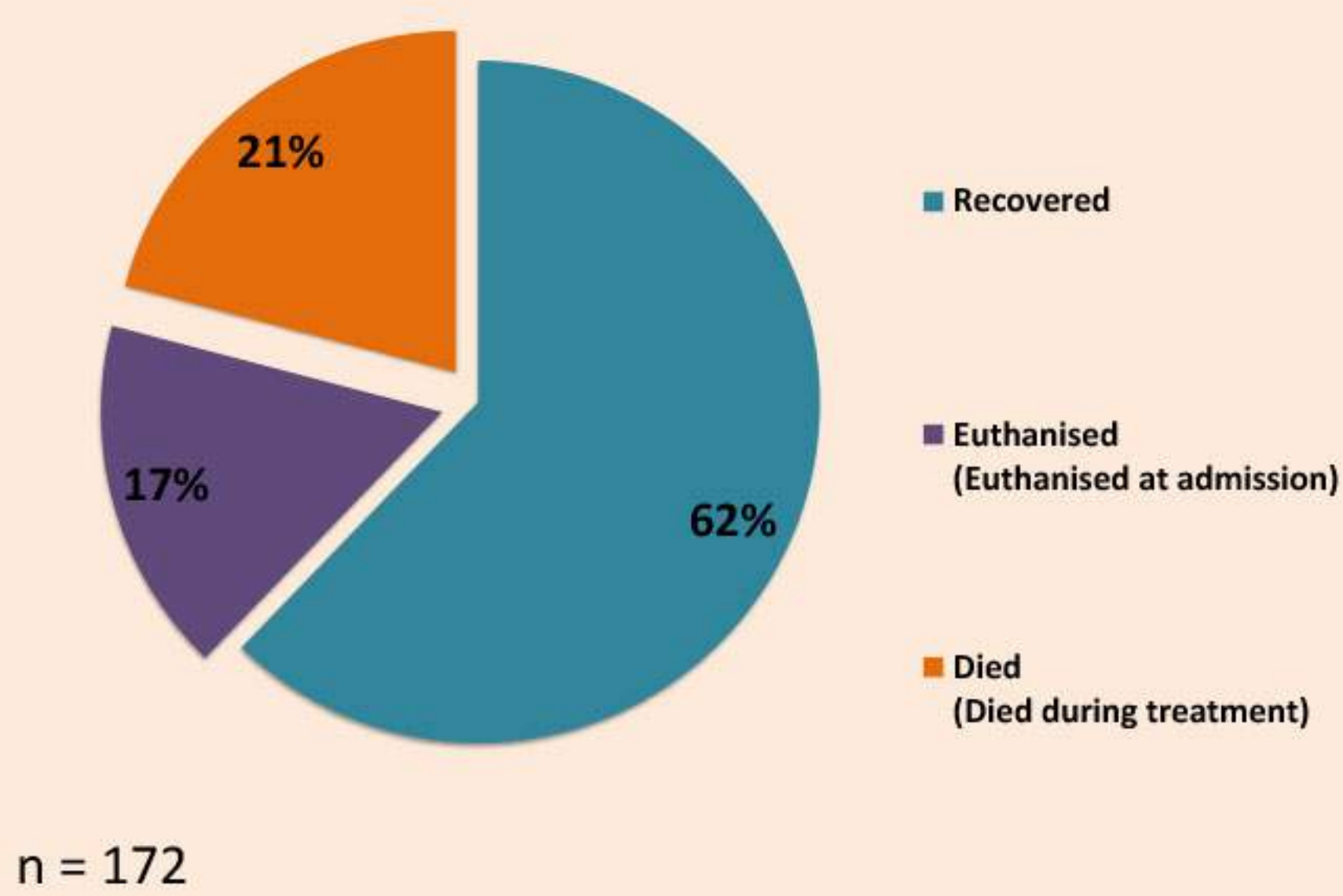
To record the outcome of tetanus infected animals admitted to Brooke Gujranwala equine welfare centre between January 1999 and December 2009.

To record the impact of a community vaccination and awareness program in Rajkot community of Gujranwala district.



Figure 1: Tetanus affected animal showing flaring of nostrils and erect ears.

Outcome of tetanus cases admitted to Brooke Gujranwala Equine Welfare Centre between January 1998 and December 2009



Protocol for treatment

- Horses and mules were given 30000 IU anti-tetanus serum BID IV, 22000 IU/kg procaine (benzyl) penicillin BID IM; 40 mg diazepam BID IM.
- Donkeys were given 15000 IU anti-tetanus serum BID IV; 20000 IU/kg procaine (benzyl) penicillin BID IM; 20 mg diazepam BID IM.
- Treatment frequency was reduced gradually in a three week period. Animals were rehydrated with intravenous saline as per requirement.
- Management practices assisted recovery (plugged ears, animal kept in dark room).
- Animals with advanced clinical signs (locked jaw) were euthanized at admission.

Community vaccination and awareness programme

April 2007, Rajkot community :

- In one community a selected service provider was trained to provide a tetanus vaccine.
- 67 donkeys, 14 horses and 4 mules were given complete course of three primary vaccines.
- Horses and mules were vaccinated with 80 IU anti tetanus toxoid IM, 40 IU anti tetanus toxoid IM for donkeys twice at a six week intervals with a booster dose after one year.
- Awareness sessions on the cause, severity and treatment of tetanus were delivered in routine community meetings.

Number of positive tetanus cases before and after Raj Kot community vaccination and awareness programme



Conclusions

- Successful treatment of tetanus is possible in some cases.
- A community vaccination and awareness programme was associated with a substantial reduction in cases presented for treatment to Gujranwala equine Welfare Centre.

