

Foot Rot In Bargur Hill Cattle In Tamil Nadu

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Yaswanthkumar.S¹, Venkitachalam. R², Ganapathi. P³, Velusamy R⁴

¹Ph.D Research Scholar, Department of Zoology, Kongunadu Arts and Science College, Coimbatore-641029, Tamil Nadu, India.

²Assistant Professor, Department of Zoology, Kongunadu Arts and Science College, Coimbatore-641029, Tamil Nadu, India.

³Assistant Professor and Head, Bargur Cattle Research Station (TANUVAS), Bargur, Anthiyur Taluk, Erode-638501, Tamil Nadu, India.

⁴Assistant Professor, Department of Veterinary Parasitology, Veterinary College and Research Institute, Namakkal - 637002., Tamil Nadu, India.

The people of Bargur Hills rear livestock for their livelihood. They mostly prefer Bargur, Kangeyam, and Bargur Buffalo breeds because of their ability to withstand harsh climatic conditions. and drought. Recent indigenous survey results around the Bargur hills show that cattle are prone to various communicable diseases which are caused by various ectoparasites. The outbreak of Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD), Foot rot and Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD) were recently recorded in these cattle. Among the diseases, Foot rot is the most common and troublesome disease among the Bargur Cattle.

Foot Rot

Foot rot is caused by soil-borne bacterial infections such as *Fusobacterium necrophorum* and *Bacteroides melaninogenicus*, which enter the interdigital area through wounded skin and other soil-borne bacteria, such as *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Escherichia coli*, *Corynebacterium pyogenes*, and *Porphyro monaslevii*, have some link with this disease (Lincoln 2009) which effects on the hoof and surrounding area by causing lameness and swelling in one or more feet of multiple animals in a herd in a single time (Mass 2009) and this disease causing a major nuisance for Bargur cattle of Tamil Nadu (Fig.2). Foot rot has a global distribution and normally sporadic, but it can be endemic in intensive cattle production units. The



incidence varies according to the weather, time of year, grazing periods, and housing arrangements.

Causes Of Foot Rot

The lameness caused by foot rot often leads to decreased appetite and poor performance in the infected cattle. The delayed or absence of treatment will lead to chronic conditions sometimes fatal (Greenough. 2007). The disease occurs all over the year, and the most prevalent predisposing factor is foot skin injury, which is usually caused by trauma from stepping on stones, straw, or rigid mud, or by standing in a damp muddy environment for an extended period, which can soften and macerate the skin (Currin et al., 2009). Occasionally, the infection might emerge in the absence of evident interdigital injury (Currin et al., 2009). Although all ages of animals are susceptible, the disease is more common in cattle that are weaning or older. Morbidity levels might range from one or two animals per herd to huge epidemics (Griffin.1998). The infection leads to significant economic loss to the farmer by reducing milk production in dairy cattle and weight gain in all ages of cattle (Kausche & Robb, 2003).

Foot Rot on Bargur Cattle

Bargur indigenous free-ranging cattle in the Bargur hills are maintained under poor sanitation with a zero-input system. Cattle are used for various agricultural operations other than milking. These operations include ploughing, carting, gaming, and manure handling. The agriculturist traditionally uses these

cattle for organic farming by using its manure for fertilizer and urine to prepare *panchagavya*. These cattle are kept in herds in a traditional penning system by using locally available bamboo. Poor animal husbandry management makes these cattle more prone to foot rot disease. The morbidity rate of foot rot is higher mainly due to improper sanitation measures. The traditional healers living in the Bargur hills use ethnoveterinary practices to prevent foot rot.

Foot Rot in Bargur Cattle



Conclusion

The Bargur Cattle Research Station was established in Bargur to conserve the endemic cattle by Tamil Nadu Veterinary and Animal Sciences University. The farmers and cattle owners in the landscape may be educated on the best scientific methods of animal husbandry practices through various awareness programs to conserve Bargur cattle for long-term conservation.

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