

Jan 1969 Report

During the month of January we have been kept rather busy in the kennel area.

We have made a great deal of progress with the organic phosphate poisoned dogs over all but also have had bad set backs.

On the 1st of January we lowered the level of Atropine to $1\frac{1}{2}$ mg (bid) on Heide from 3 mg (bid),^{no} adverse effects were noticed during the ensuing period.

On the second we reduced Skip, Gomer, Krim, Rusty and Lobo to 2 mg Atropine (bid). It was from this point that we formulated two groups of dogs which were dependent on their individual progress. We now had six (6) dogs which showed very good signs of living through the ordeal and would become useful scout dogs in the future. The other seven (7) dogs were still very questionable as to their life or death status. During the early part of the month the latter were on fluids, antibiotics and antemetics extensively.

On the fourth Skip, Gomer, Krim, Rusty and Lobo were lowered to $1\frac{1}{2}$ mg Atropine (bid). Lobo was further lowered to 1 mg Atropine (bid) on the seventh of January.

On the 10th the remaining five (5) dogs were also decreased to 1 mg Atropine (bid). During this period the sicker dogs were on Kaopectate and intermittently placed on Darbazine to try to decrease the incidence of vomiting.

On the 11th of January the 2-PAM dose was lowered from 625 mg (bid) to 465 mg (bid) on Skip and Gomer. Also the use of fluids was discontinued on the less healthy dogs as their appetite and condition improved. It was again administered to several dogs about 10-12 days later as their condition declined. On this day Rusty went into convulsions and dyspnea was observed. He was administered Thorazine and an increased amount of Atropine. He was continued on 2 mg Atropine (bid) until the twenty-ninth and has shown no effects of the condition which occurred on the 11th. Duke 7X82 was lowered to 2 mg Atropine (bid) as his condition was greatly improving.

On the 13th Lobo and Heide were decreased to 465 mg 2-PAM (bid). On the fifteenth Krim and Rusty were placed on the 465 mg 2-PAM level. The 2-PAM level was again lowered for Skip and Gomer on the 16th, Lobo and Heide on the 18th and Krim and Rusty on the 19th to 312 mg (bid) which is half the original dose.

On the 19th Duke was reduced to 465 mg 2-PAM. His condition was steadily improving and appeared to be on the way to complete recovery. His Atropine level was also dropped to $1\frac{1}{2}$ mg (bid). Skip and Gomer were reduced to 156 mg 2-PAM (bid).

On the 20th of January the effects of the organic phosphate took its toll with the death of Tuffy. Tuffy was staked outside for the routine weekly kennel disinfecting and was found dead when the dogs

were being brought back into their kennels. The major cause of death was the prolapse of the stomach into the esophagus. The necropsy also showed tonsillitis, extreme gastritis, distension of the bladder and other dilatating factors.

On the 21st Duke showed signs of regression and was administered fluids and an increased Atropine level. Kurt who also had ringworm which had been treated with Bacitracin and Mycolog was changed to Furacin powder to dry up the wounds as healing was satisfactory. Within two days the treatment was discontinued. The gradual reduction of 2-PAM was still in progress with our seven (7) most likely to live dogs.

On the 22nd Lobo and Heide were decreased to 156 mg 2-PAM (bid) followed by Krim and Rusty on the 23rd.

The 23rd brought to an end the use of 2-PAM for Gomer and Skip. They remained on Atropine to see if there would be any ill effects from the discontinuation of 2-PAM. This day Duke was also lowered to the 312 mg level.

On the 27th 2-PAM was cut off from Lobo, Heide, Krim and Rusty. During this time the latter six (6) dogs seemed to take a turn for the worse. In three cases except Duke, Buster and Sgt. Bilko Atropine level was increased to three times a day. Fluids were administered to offset anorexia and vomiting. Toward the remaining few days left in the month very little progress was seen. The worst effected dog being Honda.

On the 29th Atropine was lowered to $\frac{1}{2}$ mg (bid) for Skip and Gomer and $1\frac{1}{2}$ mg for Rusty, on the succeeding days the level was lowered to $\frac{1}{4}$ mg for Lobo, Heide and Krim. To date there seemed to be no signs or ill effects due to the lowered levels of Atropine and complete disuse of 2-PAM in our six (6) better dogs. Rusty has not had a relapse and seems to be coming along quite well. Heide shows no signs of dyspnea after light exercise. Lobo still has a slight breathing problem after exercising but appears to be breathing easier as his tone improves. Skip and Gomer have not shown regressing effects even after routine exercise and work.

During the early part of February we hope to have these six (6) dogs completely off of Atropine and after close observation for approximately a week to ten days of training here, permit them to leave for the field.

Krim even though cured of the organic phosphate toxicity, may have to be rendered useless as a scout dog because of arthritic changes in her pelvic region suffered in early December from a bruise.

During the month of January ten (10) new scout dogs arrived from Fort Benning. All were sound health wise.

Around the middle of the month there seemed to be an outbreak of

diarrhea. These incidents were treated with Kaopectate, Biosol-M and DNP in severe cases which symptomatically were associated with hookworms.

Twice during the month fecal and blood samples were sent to Saigon for analysis. As of the 31st the results had not yet returned.

With the opening of Lab facilities here at An Khe due for the first of February we hope to have results no later than a day or two after the samples are taken, therefore making the tests more useful and hastening treatment of dogs involved with parasites.

We have had little problem with ticks and other external parasites here in the kennel area. I have not been able to observe conditions in the forward areas to determine the extent of ectoparasite damage in the field. However, Lindane powder has been issued to various dog handlers going to forward areas to help curb the external parasite problem if present. I have tried to set up a routine program of cleaning ears, checking nails and teeth cleaning when a dog comes in from the field and the program has had considerable success.

I had a little problem of obtaining transportation to pick up medical supplies which were badly needed and detained at Hold Baggage. On another occasion transportation was unavailable for the process of taking samples to the 616th Lab for analysis. However, my mission was accomplished despite the lack of a vehicle in both cases.

As you can see the accomplishments were not without the highly commendable cooperation of the hard working individuals in our unit. However, the hard workers are barely in the majority and they carry the load for those who refuse to do their part in our never-the-less progressing program.

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