

KENNEL REPORT

March & April
1968

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On the first of March Krim and Hondo were euthanized. The former because of a broken ligament in the coxofemoral joint which was not healing and rendered the dog unfit for scouting and the latter because the effects of organic phosphate poisoning finally overcame the treatment to such an extent that the dog was not responding and was in very poor condition.

The remaining four organic phosphate dogs, Kurt, Blacky, Bilko, and Buster, were finally taken off Atropine treatment the twenty-second of March. These dogs were in good physical condition. They showed slight breathing problems while exercising but improved with more exercising as body tone increased. The exception in this group was Blacky. He made slight improvement with control in his hind extremities but hardly more than noticeable. By the end of April his condition as regards to control of his rear legs was not good. He continued to vomit a small portion of his daily meal during the night and was given Darbazine twice daily for a period of two weeks in April. This treatment for vomiting showed only slight improvement in his condition and was therefore ended.

Buster and Bilko vomit periodically. There is no known reason and the amount vomited is not great enough or frequent enough to warrant treatment.

During the month of March, 34 fecal examinations were run, 11 were positive for internal parasites. Also 7 blood tests were performed, none were positive for microfilaria.

We scaled teeth for seven dogs.

Aside from minor treatments and immunizations we had a case of minor wounds on Skip due to shrapnel. The wounds were promptly treated and being minor, did not keep him out of action long.

On 24 March, Caesar X693 came in from the field with a fractured femur. Dr. McCurnin pinned the bone and wired in the broken chips. A splint was tried but because of the light metal available and over activity of the dog removed in four days. He was placed on tranquilizer daily and the healing was slow. He did seem to have minor complications but at the end of April healing appeared very good.

During the early part of April, there appeared an outbreak of screw worms. This was due to neglected cuts and scratches on the dogs. Kane and Pirate were sent in from the field. Major was treated there. The treatment consisted of removal of the screw worms, cleansing the area, applying Furacin and SWC Bomb, and administering antibiotics. Due to the tissue damage healing was slow.

Also we had an outbreak in the incidence of internal parasites. The fecal results for the month showed 19 positive and 10 negative. To remedy the situation in the kennel area the runs were saturated with salt bi-weekly as well as the usual weekly disinfection, the sump disinfected with malathion and stake out areas made, which could be better cleaned up and also saturated with salt.

In the forward area salt was applied to the runs to discourage the development of the hookworm ova.

With this action we are in hopes of curbing the parasite problem.

We ran 23 blood samples during April with one dog showing a positive result for microfilaria. He was sent to the 936th Veterinary Detachment in Saigon for treatment. The more recent occurrence of heartworms, 3 in February and 1 in April, have been in dogs newly obtained from Ft. Benning during January.

Other than the screw worm incidents and parasite problems the only other case of note during the month of April was that of Duke. He was in a dog fight and received a deep laceration under the right eye. He received four stitches and was placed on antibiotic treatment. To date healing has been exceptional.

With the presence of a Vet Tech in the forward area now, I feel that we are able to do a better job of caring for minor ailments which would have brought dogs in for treatment. As of the 30th of April we have the highest percentage of operational dog teams in the field ready for deployment and in combat use that have been there since my arrival.

Respectfully submitted

Francis C. Gwazdauskas
Vet Tech