A potential champ? [distemper in dogs]

F C. Wilkinson

Follow this and additional works at: https://researchlibrary.agric.wa.gov.au/journal_agriculture4

Part of the Biosecurity Commons, Other Animal Sciences Commons, and the Veterinary Infectious Diseases Commons

Recommended Citation
Available at: https://researchlibrary.agric.wa.gov.au/journal_agriculture4/vol7/iss9/3

This article is brought to you for free and open access by Research Library. It has been accepted for inclusion in Journal of the Department of Agriculture, Western Australia, Series 4 by an authorized administrator of Research Library. For more information, please contact jennifer.heathcote@agric.wa.gov.au, sandra.papenfus@agric.wa.gov.au.
IMPORTANT DISCLAIMER

This document has been obtained from DAFWA's research library website (researchlibrary.agric.wa.gov.au) which hosts DAFWA's archival research publications. Although reasonable care was taken to make the information in the document accurate at the time it was first published, DAFWA does not make any representations or warranties about its accuracy, reliability, currency, completeness or suitability for any particular purpose. It may be out of date, inaccurate or misleading or conflict with current laws, polices or practices. DAFWA has not reviewed or revised the information before making the document available from its research library website. Before using the information, you should carefully evaluate its accuracy, currency, completeness and relevance for your purposes. We recommend you also search for more recent information on DAFWA's research library website, DAFWA's main website (https://www.agric.wa.gov.au) and other appropriate websites and sources.

Information in, or referred to in, documents on DAFWA's research library website is not tailored to the circumstances of individual farms, people or businesses, and does not constitute legal, business, scientific, agricultural or farm management advice. We recommend before making any significant decisions, you obtain advice from appropriate professionals who have taken into account your individual circumstances and objectives.

The Chief Executive Officer of the Department of Agriculture and Food and the State of Western Australia and their employees and agents (collectively and individually referred to below as DAFWA) accept no liability whatsoever, by reason of negligence or otherwise, arising from any use or release of information in, or referred to in, this document, or any error, inaccuracy or omission in the information.
A POTENTIAL CHAMP?

By F. C. WILKINSON, B.V.Sc., Veterinary Surgeon

THE mother of this pup was an eight-year-old sheep dog and in the eyes of her owner she was a champion and well worth her keep. She was perhaps slowing down a little, so the best looking pup out of the last litter had been kept as a possible replacement.

This pup was called Trixie, and had enjoyed normal health, but now she was a sick dog.

History
Just a week before, Trixie, for the first time, had refused her evening meal and was unusually quiet. Two days later she had still not eaten and could not be tempted with minced liver or egg flips. Her nose was dry, and a yellowish discharge had appeared between the eyelids and had tended to gum them together. A similar discharge was also apparent from the nose and the dog had developed a bad cough.

The owner thought Trixie might have a cold and blamed himself for allowing the pup to ride in the back of the utility on a wet, cold day about a week before. But thinking back, he remembered that the dog at the farm he visited had not looked well, and it had been playing with Trixie.

Could Trixie have contracted some infection? He was going into town that day so he took her to the veterinary hospital.

Diagnosis
The veterinarian gave a grave shake of the head when Trixie was presented. He immediately recognised the familiar signs of distemper. He had seen three similar cases that day, and there was obviously an epidemic in the district.

An examination revealed severe pneumonia and tonsillitis. Worse still, Trixie had the "shakes"—an involuntary twitching of the muscles as if shivering, and the earliest sign of damage to the nervous system.

Action
The veterinarian explained that he could give treatment to overcome the secondary bacterial infection causing the pneumonia and tonsillitis but there was little he could do to stop the virus damage to the nervous system, and, in fact, more serious nervous damage could still occur.

The owner decided to try treatment, so went home armed with medicine to administer as instructed.
**Result**

Trixie's health picked up for a few days. There was less eye discharge and coughing almost ceased. She still would not eat but did swallow gruels when spoonfed. However, the twitching became worse so that she could hardly walk. A week later the course of treatment was completed. Trixie could no longer stand so she was taken back to the veterinary hospital where, upon professional advice, she was painlessly destroyed.

Trixie's owner enquired how his neighbour's dog had fared. It had been luckier in some respects in that it had lived, but had a permanent twitching.

Trixie's mother now has another litter of two pups. About two weeks after weaning the owner intends to take them in to the veterinary hospital for a single shot of vaccine which will immunise them against distemper and prevent a similar fate to Trixie's.
MOPTHPROOF YOUR ORCHARD

Make your spray programme really effective with Dicarbam insecticide. • Minimised spray residue • Better quality fruit finish • Better yields — higher prices — bigger profits • Mothproofs your orchard against codling moth, light brown apple moth and oriental fruit moth • Controls white wax scale on citrus • Controls San Jose scale.

Dicarbam may be used also as a fruit thinning spray.
“UNIVERSAL” MISTING & SPRAYING MACHINE

Spray up to 100 feet! Perfect atomization: you spray automatically using the SOLO spray rate calculation — this tells you the exact quantity of liquid per acre in relation to your tractor speed and spray length. 240 m.p.h. air blast into 8 nozzles instantly atomizes the spray liquid into the air stream. You get better distribution and a longer carrying spray with no liquid drop-out. Greater and finer dispersement of the spray liquid. You save chemicals, water and time.

Spray two rows simultaneously. Ideal for grapes, tomatoes, etc.

SOLO DISTRIBUTORS PTY. LTD.
1704 Albany Hwy., Kenwick, Perth, W.A. Phone 68-3237/8

Sirs, Please forward me further information on:
☐ Solo “Universal” Misting and Spraying Machine
☐ Solo Junior Mister Duster ☐ Solo Port 70 Mister Duster
☐ An obligation free demonstration on my property.

NAME
ADDRESS
STATE

Please mention the “Journal of Agriculture of W.A.” when writing to advertisers.