



U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Office of the Secretary

Press Service



Release - Immediate

February 8, 1923.

HOOKWORM REMEDY PROVES OF
GREAT VALUE TO FOX INDUSTRY

The discovery by the Bureau of Animal Industry, United States Department of Agriculture, of the value of carbon tetrachlorid for removing parasites from the intestinal tracts of animals is proving of great use to the silver-black fox industry of the United States and Canada. (Experimental work with this remedy on foxes is now being conducted by the Biological Survey of the Department at its experimental fur farm at Keeseville, N.Y.

Foxes in captivity are greatly troubled with hookworm and other animal parasite infestation, and many young animals are either killed or stunted in growth. Some practical fox farmers attribute undesirable furs to the poor condition of animals infested with parasites.

In past years it has been found that foxes are quite susceptible to the poisonous effects of most of the drugs in common use for removing worms from animals, and very intolerant of the drugs commonly used to remove hookworms. According to Dr. J. A. Allen, animal pathologist in charge of the Fox Research Station, Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, chloroform kills 50 per cent of the foxes treated, even though the dose is too small to be effective in removing worms; while thymol, in doses removing about 88 per cent of the worms, killed nearly 20 per cent of the foxes treated.

The results obtained by the use of carbon tetrachlorid have shown that it is highly effective in removing hookworms, and quite safe when properly

administered. A number of favorable reports, as follows, have come to Dr. Maurice C. Hall, who has been conducting the experimental work with this drug in the Bureau of Animal Industry:

Dr. Allen reports the treatment of 299 foxes with the removal of 95 per cent of the hookworms present. He also found carbon tetrachlorid effective in removing ascarids or roundworms from foxes.

Mr. Jeffreys, editor of the American Fox and Fur Farmer, has reported that in the administration of the drug to 69 fox pups, 17 days to 5 weeks old, the treatment apparently removed all of the hookworms present, as well as all the intestinal flukes. He states that the use of carbon tetrachlorid is worth thousands of dollars to fox ranchers.

According to Dr. Brumley, professor of small-animal practice at Ohio State University, the use of carbon tetrachlorid in hookworm disease "has solved one of the hardest problems of small-animal practice."

Dr. Karl B. Hanson and Dr. H. L. VanVolkenberg, of the Biological Survey, have found in percentage efficiency tests, made on 30 foxes, that carbon tetrachlorid was as effective in the removal of hookworms and ascarids as was found by Dr. Hall and Dr. Allen. In addition it was found to be 100 per cent efficient in the removal of intestinal flukes. Detailed accounts of these experiments are in course of preparation and will be published at an early date.