

bark, leaves) (+86.87%, +714.34%, +199.06%, +235%) significantly higher ( $p < 0.05$  for grass and  $p < 0.01$  for trees). For grass, roots, soil at 40 cm depth and bark in the "control" area cadmium levels were accordingly to the Romanian statutory acts (1 ppm/soil and 1.6 ppm/grass) within the limits permitted.

The descending hierarchy of organs and tissues related to cadmium levels was: kidneys, liver, spleen, muscles, heart, lung, lymph nodes and bone in the "control" area and: kidneys, liver, spleen, lymphonodes, lungs, muscles, heart and bones in the polluted area. With the exception of the bones in the unpolluted area, in all organs and tissues cadmium levels exceeded the admitted limit. Cadmium levels in polluted area were significantly higher ( $p < 0.05$  /  $p < 0.01$ ) in comparison to the "control" area: in kidneys (+221.35%), lymph nodes (+250%) and bone (+250%), but not significantly higher ( $p > 0.05$ ), in liver (+33.82%) and spleen (+9.09%). In muscles and heart cadmium levels were higher in the "control" area than in the polluted area but the difference was not statistically significant ( $p > 0.05$ ).

#### Poster Presentation 55

EWDA Best Student Presentation Award applicant

### HAEMATOLOGICAL AND BIOCHEMICAL INVESTIGATIONS IN FALLOW DEER (*DAMA DAMA*) FROM WESTERN ROMANIA

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Determination of haematological and biochemical blood parameters is important for diagnosis (positive/negative diagnosis) medication and health status monitoring of wildlife.

The study was carried out on seven fallow deers (*Dama dama*) from Forestry District C., county A. We determined the haematological and biochemical blood parameters during the hunting period. The does were healthy from a clinical point on view and were between 1 and 2 years old.

Blood samples were taken from the heart in vacuum tubes with EDTA K3. Haematological examination determined the total number of erythrocytes and leukocytes (E, L), haemoglobin (Hb) level, haematocrit (Ht), erythrocytes (mean erythrocyte volume VEM, mean erythrocyte haemoglobin concentration CHEM) and leukocytic series. Biochemical investigations determined: AST, ALP, ALT, GGT, Ca, Mg, total protein and albumin.

Haematological and biochemical analyses were carried out in the Laboratory of Internal Disease of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine Timisoara using a Vet-Screen semi-automatic analyzer and leukocytic series was determined using the May-Grunwald-Giemsa method. The obtained results were statistically evaluated with Mann-Whitney non parametrical tests.

Compared to the current literature data obtained (English and Lepherd, 1981; Zdravko et al., 2000; Vengust and Klinkon, 2002), the hemogramme in fallow deer has shown decreased values of erythrocyte number (9,11 mil/mm<sup>3</sup>) and mean haemoglobin concentration (16,59 g/dl). Thus regarding the values of haemoglobin (15,06 g/dl), haematocrit (45%) and leucogramme (number of leukocytes, leukocytic series) there were no significant differences. Also, total protein values were higher and albumin values were within comparable limits.

Also compared with the data obtained from a study of fallow deer from the Islands of Brijuni (English and Lepherd, 1981), the values of AST were lower and the values of ALT were higher in the present study. Also, GGT activity was lower and calcium registered higher values comparative with data in the literature.

#### Poster Presentation 56

EWDA Best Student Presentation Award applicant

### IMPORTANCE OF LYNX (*LYNX LYNX*) ATTACKS TO LIVESTOCK AS PERCEIVED BY INHABITANTS OF LYNX AREAS IN SLOVENIA AND CROATIA

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Eurasian lynx (*Lynx lynx*), similarly to other large carnivores can cause damage to human property by preying on sheep or goats. This controversial aspect of lynx ecology is one of the reasons why people sometimes oppose its conservation. Lynx population, shared by Slovenia and Croatia, was established following a reintroduction of 6 individuals to southern Slovenia in 1974. In both countries, lynx is listed as an endangered species which is strictly protected by law. Damages

caused by lynx are compensated by the governments. The purpose of this paper is to evaluate perceptions of local inhabitants of lynx areas in Slovenia and Croatia about the issue of lynx damages to livestock. We have carried out a public attitude survey in the beginning of 2008. Questionnaire with paid return postage was sent to a randomly selected 1000 households in each country. Questionnaire was followed with a reminder/thank-you card 10 days later. Obtained response rates were 35.3% for Slovenia (SI) and 20.1% for Croatia (HR). We did not find any significant difference on respondents' demographic characteristics among the two countries. Average age of respondents was 52 years for Slovenia and 51 for Croatia. In both countries most of the respondents were male (68.6% in SI and 66.8% in HR). Sheep owners were 4.5% and 4.3% of respondents in Slovenia and Croatia, respectively. There were fewer goat owners (3.1% and 2.9% for SI and HR, respectively). Damage caused by lynx on their livestock experienced 1.1% and 1.0% of respondents in Slovenia and Croatia, respectively. Although majority of respondents in both groups agreed or strongly agreed to the item "It is necessary to conserve lynx population in SI/HR for the future generations", respondents from Croatia scored significantly higher on the item (Mann-Whitney U test,  $p=0.001$ ), thus demonstrating more positive attitudes toward lynx. Few respondents (9.0% in SI and 11.0% in HR;  $p=0.863$ ) expressed fear that lynx could cause them financial damage, however almost 20% of respondents from Slovenia and 15.9% from Croatia believed that sheep and goats are the main food for lynx ( $p=0.035$ ). Approximately one third of respondents (SI: 35.2%; HR: 33.7%;  $p=0.500$ ) from both countries agreed that damage-causing lynx should be shot. Large majority of all respondents (SI: 90.6%; HR: 97.2%;  $p=0.011$ ) agreed that the damage caused by lynx should be compensated. In conclusion, both Slovenian and even more so Croatian respondents were in favour of lynx conservation in their respective countries. Majority of respondents do not fear that lynx could cause them financial damage but relatively high percentage, especially in Slovenia falsely believes that sheep and goats are the main lynx food. The next step is to investigate whether and how do the beliefs about the species impacts to livestock relate to support for conservation of the species.

#### Poster Presentation 57

### RED SHEEP TICK (*HAEMAPHYSALIS PUNCTATA*) IN SCANDINAVIAN MOOSE (*ALCES ALCES*)

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A 5-year old male moose was submitted to the National Veterinary Institute in 2007 for postmortem examination. The moose had been found being unresponsive, laying in a ditch on the same day. It was subsequently euthanized by a local hunter and immediately transported to the Institute for examination. The post-mortem examination did not reveal the cause of the condition in the moose. The moose was in a poor body condition, weighing 280 kg. Several ticks were located in the groins, the axillar regions, and on the head of the moose. Initially, the ticks were presumed to be *Ixodes ricinus*, a tick commonly found in cervids in Sweden. An entomological examination of 20 ticks revealed that they were all *Haemaphysalis punctata*, or the red sheep tick. This is the first report of this tick in moose. It has previously been identified in rodents and birds in Sweden. Being a common vector of several disease agents, such as *Borrelia burgdorferi*, and *Anaplasma phagocytophilum*, and considering the importance of cervids as hosts for ticks, the discovery of *Haemaphysalis punctata* in moose should facilitate an increased awareness and risk evaluation of ticks acting as reservoirs of zoonotic diseases in Scandinavia.

#### Poster Presentation 58

### CHARACTERIZATION AND ANTIBIOTIC SENSITIVITY OF *ESCHERICHIA COLI* STRAINS ISOLATED FROM COTTON-TAIL RABBITS (*SYLVILAGUS FLORIDANUS*) IN UMBRIA, ITALY

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Three hundred and sixty free-ranging cotton-tail rabbits (*Sylvilagus floridanus*), hunted in a game reserve in Umbria region, Italy, were sampled over a 3-month period. Each animal was submitted to necropsy and examined in order to assess their sanitary status. One hundred and ten animals were tested by culture in order to detect *Escherichia coli* in the caecum; 104/110 (94,5%) rabbits resulted positive. For every positive animal, one colony was further characterized. The

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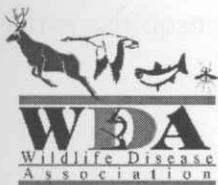
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