



ABSTRACT

DERMATOPHYTOSIS IMPACT ON THE BLOOD PROFILE OF CATS

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Feline dermatophytosis lesions are similar to various dermatoses. Current diagnosis via Wood's lamp illumination lacks sensitivity, fungal culture consumes time whereas trichogram and biopsy requires expertise. Blood profile may be altered in feline dermatophytosis. The aim of this study is to investigate the correlation between feline dermatophytosis and blood profile.

Cats with dermatoses were examined clinically, had skin scraped for fungal culture on Sabouraud dextrose agar, incubated at 25°C and observed daily for a maximum of three weeks. Suspected dermatophyte colonies were confirmed by observing macroscopic and microscopic morphology. Blood profile would be examined manually and the results were compared with reference range of healthy cats.

Five cats were confirmed dermatophytic from clinical signs and fungal characteristics. The fungus was identified as *Microsporum canis*. The five dermatophytic cats' RBC related blood parameters remained normal except one (20%) had erythrocytosis. Four (80%) had elevated total plasma protein and one (20%) had decreased fibrinogen. One (20%) had eosinophilia, two (40%) had lymphopenia, one (20%) had lymphocytosis, two (40%) had neutrophilia and one (20%) had monocytosis. Overall, two (40%) had leukocytosis and three (60%) normal leukocyte numbers. In conclusion, elevated total plasma protein are the most consistent changes in feline dermatophytosis.

Keyword: Feline dermatophytosis, blood, eosinophilia, total plasma protein