



A short Note on Camels Export from the Sudan: Importers Conditions and Associated Practices

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ABSTRACT

During 2014 out of 13866 racing camels (To Gulf) tested for brucellosis in Kassala Veterinary Research Laboratory 1479 (10.7%) were positive. In PortSudan 542 (2.2%) out of 24916 were positive. In the ordinary situation all positive camels should be excluded from the cargoes. During the period from March 19th to December 24th 2014 a total of 14 (average = 1.2 ship/month) merchant ships loaded with 655 heads of camels were rejected from Saudi Arabia and returned to Swakin seaport. The mentioned reasons are pseudotuberculosis, camel pox, brucellosis and others. In most cases the retesting revealed no confirmation for these reasons.

Keywords: Camel export, Quarantine measurements, Brucellosis

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INTRODUCTION

The Sudan exports camels either to Saudi Arabia through the Red Sea (shipping) from Swakin Seaport, to other Gulf countries by air from Kassala airport or to Egypt through terrestrial roads. These countries import camels as food source or for racing.

The recipient countries usually have their own conditions in which they either request animals free of certain diseases and/ or vaccinated against others. To achieve these conditions coordination between the General Directorate of Quarantines and Meat Hygiene, Veterinary Research Institute and exporters should be well identified. Due to this coordination one would expect the smoothness of the exportation processes following the implementation of all technical and administrative procedures. Sometimes, during the daily working, some problems arise leading to either delaying of the exportation processes

or rejection of some camels' cargoes from the recipient countries. The shared condition between all importer countries is the 100% testing against brucellosis. For racing camels Gulf countries condition the testing against trypanosomosis. Recently part of the Gulf countries requested the testing for the corona virus: Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS). This will lead to new costing and technical loads on the country.

In this article we are trying to highlight part of these problems taking Kassala and Swakin Quarantine Stations as a data points and their coordination with Kassala and Portsudan Veterinary Research Laboratories as guidance.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

This article depends on the annual reports of Kassala and Portsudan Veterinary Research Laboratories of 2014 (Anon 1 and 2). The data included the results of the diagnostic tests for brucellosis and trypanosomosis in both

racing and meat camels. This data was analyzed and discussed.

RESULTS

Camels export from Kassala Quarantine Station 2014

Racing camels: Racing camels are usually exported to Saudi Arabia through shipping and to Qatar and other gulf countries by air. These countries condition the total (100%) testing for brucellosis and

trypanosomosis. Table (1) shows the results of the testing in 2014 (Anon 1). The total number of racing camels tested during 2014 was 1907. The peak of racing camels export was reached in April (384 camels) followed by February (330) and then was zigzagging during the other months. The minimal number was (17) in June 2014. Brucellosis rate was 6.9% and trypanosomosis was only 0.1%.

Table 1: Brucellosis and trypanosomosis testing for racing camels

Month	Total Camels	+ve Tryps.	%	+ve Brucella	%
January	117	0	0	9	7.7
February	330	0	0	14	4.2
March	116	0	0	0	0
April	384	0	0	30	7.8
May	130	0	0	1	0.8
June	17	0	0	1	5.9
July	217	0	0	9	4.1
August	178	0	0	11	6.2
September	67	0	0	7	10.4
October	68	0	0	15	22.1
November	106	0	0	10	9.4
December	177	2	1.1	25	14.1
Total	1907	2	0.1	132	6.9

Meat camels: A total of 11963 meat camels were tested against brucellosis during 2014 in Kassala Veterinary Research laboratory (Table 2). The number of camels increased from January, reached its peak in April

(2366), started to decline from May to October and then increased during November and December. The minimal number was nine camels in August. The total brucellosis rate was 11.4.

Table 2: Brucellosis testing for meat camels

Month	Total camels	+ve Brucella	%
January	2206	236	10.7
February	2224	204	9.2
March	2206	235	10.7
April	2366	245	10.4
May	891	128	14.4
June	181	22	12.2
July	89	9	10.1
August	9	1	11.1
September	44	3	6.8
October	154	19	12.3
November	524	55	10.5
December	1069	208	19.5
Total	11963	1365	11.4

Camels export from Swakin Quarantine Station 2014: The total number of camels tested against brucellosis in Portsudan Veterinary Research Laboratory was 24916. The numbers increased from January,

reached its peak in April (5665) and declined from May to October and started to increase from November. The minimal number was 241 camels in October (Table 3) (Anon 2).

Table 3: Brucellosis testing for racing & meat camels in Portsudan Veterinary Research Laboratory

Month	Total camels	+ve Brucella	%
January	3032	52	1.7
February	2068	18	0.8
March	2929	73	2.4
April	5665	82	1.4
May	3782	62	1.6
June	1008	12	1.1
July	763	15	2.0
August	732	9	1.2
September	372	12	3.2
October	241	3	1.2
November	1105	13	1.1
December	3219	191	5.9
Total	24916	542	2.2

Camels cargoes rejected from Saudi Arabia: During 2014 a total of 14 ships harbouring 655 camels were rejected by the Saudi Arabia authorities. The mentioned reasons

included mainly pseudotuberculosis, camel pox and brucellosis (Table 4). Retesting and rechecking revealed that 85.7 of camels cargoes were refused with no real reasons (Anon2).

Table 4: Camel cargoes rejected from Saudi Arabia during 2014

Camel cargo No.	Total camels	Mentioned Reasons	Retesting Results
1	133	Brucellosis**	5 (3.7%) +ve
2	95	Brucellosis**	1 (1.1%) +ve
3	25	Camel pox***	No lesions
4	25	Tick infestation*	Recent infestation (10%)
5	19	Camel pox &*** Pseudotuberculosis****	No lesions, except 1% L.node enlargement
6	43	Camel pox***	No lesions
7	26	Camel pox***	No lesions
8	26	Pseudotuberculosis****	No lesions
9	25	Pseudotuberculosis****	No lesions
10	50	Pseudotuberculosis****	No lesions
11	49	Pseudotuberculosis****	No lesions
12	69	Pseudotuberculosis****	No lesions
13	21	Pseudotuberculosis****	No lesions
14	49	Pseudotuberculosis****	No lesions
Total	655	*=1, **=2, ***= 4, ****=8	12/14 (85.7%) no reason.

DISCUSSION

Animal exportation is usually implemented through a very tedious and long process. This process starts by purchasing and collection of animals from the producing areas, transferring to elementary quarantine stations and inspection and vaccination centres and finally to the terminal quarantine station. During these journeys, the animals should be subjected to visual inspection, vaccination and laboratory diagnosis of certain diseases according to the importer countries requests and conditions. This article is briefly describing the activities associated with camels export to the gulf countries through Kassala and Swakin ports. In all cases it is well noticed that the bulk of exportation was performed during the somewhat cold months. This might be controlled by the easing of camels' movement from pasture to the quarantine stations during these months. The important disease associated with camel exports is brucellosis. During 2014 brucellosis rate among the candidate camels ranged between 2.2% in Swakin to up to 11.4 in Kassala. This disease seems to be the main obstacle to camels and other animals' exports and more efforts should be conducted to control it. It is waste to say that the positive cases should be excluded from the export herds. Rarely, some mistakes during the animals uploading lead to the passing of some positive cases. This and other reasons lead to rejection of some camels cargoes. The rejected camel cargoes from Saudi Arabia during 2014 were of no real reasons as retesting hasn't (in 85%) confirmed the

mentioned reasons. The invisible reasons might include political and in most situation market competition reasons. It is very important to mention that all the rejected camels were reentered the exportation cycle and exported to the same country. Camel pox recently started to impact camels' trade. Vaccination against this disease is now required. Veterinary Research Institute has just produced the camel pox vaccine as an alternative to the highly expensive imported one.

After the non- confirmed association between camels and corona virus infections, particularly Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS), some gulf countries requested testing of camels against this virus. This condition may lead to drastic economical and technical impact on the country. Till now no commercial kits are available for diagnosis of MERS.

CONCLUSION

Conclusively, to improve camel exportation the following points should be achieved:

- Improvement of veterinary facilities and services at producing and trading levels.
- Training and awareness should be strongly implemented for all stakeholders and partners.
- Laws and legislations should be activated.
- Application of quality management system at all exportation levels.

REFERENCES

- Anon (1). Kassala Vet. Res. Laboratory annual report 2014.
Anon (2). Portsudan Vet. Res. Laboratory annual report 2014.

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