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## Research Article

### PREVALENCE OF SKIN DISEASES IN DOGS OF KUMAON TARAI OF UTTARAKHAND

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#### ABSTRACT

Examination of 924 dogs reported during 2011 to 2016 to Veterinary Hospital, Pantnagar yielded 588 (63.63%) confirmed cases of skin ailments. Maximum cases observed during rainy season (64.28%) followed by summer (21.43%) and winter (14.29%). It was detected that non-descript breeds as well as Labrador suffered most (32.14%) followed by German shepherd (9.52%). Out of nine observed symptoms, majority of the dogs presented with four or five different kind of symptoms as 28% had itching followed by dermatitis (19%), ticks (18%) and hair fall (15%).

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#### INTRODUCTION

Tarai region of Kumaon of Uttarakhand is rich in moisture; therefore, several skins related diseases are prevalent. In dogs' common skin affection are mange, ringworm, pyoderma, lice and ticks infestations that may occur in isolation or in concurrence, complicating the differentiation (Upadhyay, et al., 2005). Plenty of symptoms may be observed and robust differential procedures are obligatory. Present cross sectional study was planned to elucidate the position of skin affections among dogs of Kumaon Tarai of uttarakhand.

#### MATERIAL AND METHODS

All the dogs reported to small animal clinics of College of Veterinary and Animal Sciences during 2011 to 2016 were included for this study. Dogs having symptoms pertaining to any skin disorders were carefully examined and as per requirement confirmed by skin scraping, culture and identification of organisms.

#### RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

A total of 924 dogs were reported during 2011 to 2016 and 588 (63.63%) confirmed to have some or other kind of skin ailments concomitant with Hill et al., (2006) in England. Season wise examination (Table 1) revealed that maximum cases recorded during rainy season (64.28%) followed by summer (21.43%) and winter (14.29%) as also observed by Olivry et al., (2010) probably due to hot and humid

environment making animals skin wet for longer duration provoking dermatitis (Laurimaa et al, 2016).

**Table 1** Seasonal occurrence of skin diseases in dogs of Kumaon Tarai of Utarakhand during 2011-2016

Sl. No.	Season	Cases
1	Rainy	378 (63.63)
2	Summer	126 (21.43)
3	Winter	84 (14.29)
Total		588

Figures in parenthesis shows percent presence

Table 2 represents breeds documented to be affected with skin diseases and it was evidenced that non-descript breeds as well as Labrador suffered most (32.14%) with one or other skin affections as also opined by Wells and Hepper, (1999) as they remain full of zip to come in contact with other infected animals (Hill, 2006). Most of the dogs presented with four or five different kind of symptoms.

**Table 2** Breeds of dogs of Kumaon Tarai of Utarakhand reported with skin diseases during 2011-2016

Sl. No.	Breeds	No. of sick
1	Non-Descript	189 (32.14)
2	Labrador	189 (32.14)
3	German Shepherd	56 (9.52)
4	Saint Bernard	35 (5.44)
5	Bhutia	28 (4.76)
6	Others	91 (15.48)
Total		588

Figures in parenthesis shows percent presence

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According to table 3 majorities of dogs (28%) had itching followed by dermatitis (19%), ticks (18%) and hair fall (15%) as also observed by Lagos (2003) due to seasonal effect.

**Table 3** Major observed in dogs of Kumaon Tarai of Utarakhand reported with skin diseases during 2011-2016

Sl. No.	Symptoms	Percent Presence
1	Hair fall	15
2	Itching	28
3	Mange	6
4	Dermatitis	19
5	Ticks	18
6	Fungus	09
7	Hyper-pigmentation	2
8	Nodular Lesions	3
	Total	100

## CONCLUSION

It can be concluded that most skin diseases among dogs were recorded during rainy season (64.28%) followed by summer (21.43%) due to hot and humid environment. Moreover, non-descript breeds as well as Labrador suffered most (32.14%) with various skin affections because of frequent contact with other animals. Most of the dogs (28%) had itching followed by dermatitis (19%), ticks infestation (18%) and hair fall (15%).

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