2.19 ETHNOVETERINARY PRACTICES ADOPTED IN PONIES IN SIRUMALAI HILLS OF TAMIL NADU IN INDIA

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Ponies are the main means of transport of agricultural products at Sirumalai Hills, a hill station of Dindigul district of Tamil Nadu in India. It covers nearly 25,000 hectares of hilly agricultural land with more than 25 hamlets in it. Approximately 2000 ponies are maintained by the farmers. Few ethnoveterinary practices for treating ailments in ponies are documented here. For the treatment of contusion, sprain and inflammatory conditions: 100 gm of soil from the inner portion of termite-shelter tunnels along with termite eggs are collected and mixed with rice porridge-whey and made into a paste. This paste is applied on the affected parts once daily for 2-4 days. For the treatment of hair-line fracture: the affected part is immobilized with bamboo sticks (cut according to the site). 40 g. of turmeric powder is mixed with two chicken eggs (white part only). A sterile cloth is soaked inside the turmeric powder-egg white emulsion and tied tightly as bandage on the immobilized part and allowed undisturbed for 10-15 days. For the treatment of hair loss due to ecto-parasites: Acorus calamus roots are made into paste with water and applied on the affected part thrice a week for 3 weeks consecutively. Aloe vera pulp (100 g) is soaked in 500 ml of neem oil overnight and this emulsion was applied on the affected parts daily for one week. Erythrina indica leaves were made into paste with equal volume of water and applied on the affected parts for 10 days.