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Contents

Editorial – Waner, T.	2
Review Article	
Principles of Jewish and Islamic Slaughter with Respect to OIE (World Organization for Animal Health) Recommendations Pozzi, P.S., Geraisy, W., Barakeh, S. and Azaran, M.	3
Canine Protein Losing Enteropathies Willard, M.	17
Research Articles	
Establishing a Specific qPCR Assay for Detecting Middle Eastern O Serotype Foot-and-Mouth Disease Virus (FMDV) Engor, E., Gelman, B., Khinitch, E., Rubinstain, M., Shwartz, G., Haegeman, A. and Stram, Y. .	21
Evaluation of the Safety of External Application of Herbal Oil (“Gidan”) on Horses’ Limbs Savariego, G., Tatz, J.A., Segev, G., Kelmer, G.	26
Prevalence and Risk Factor Analysis of Equine Infestation with Gastrointestinal Parasites in Israel Tirosch Levy, S., Kaminiski-Perez, Y., Horn Mandel, H., Sutton, G.A., Markovics, A. and Steinman, A.	32
Ultrasonographic Diagnosis of Gastroesophageal Intussusception in a 7 Week Old German Shepherd Emery, L., Biller, D., Nuth, E. and Haynes, A.	41
Environmental Survey for <i>Cryptococcus gattii</i> in an Israeli Zoo Populated with Animals Originating from Australia Gilad, A., Bakal-Weiss, M., Blum S.E., Polacheck, I. and Elad, D.	47
Molecular and Serological Investigation of Akabane Virus Infection in Cattle in Kars-Turkey Yildirim, Y., Gökçe, G., Kirmizigül, A.H., Erkiliç, E.E., Yilmaz, V., Tan, M.T. and Özgünlük, İ.	52
Case Reports	
Transient Atrioventricular Block Associated with Acute Pancreatitis in a Japanese Chin Dog Oron, L., Ohad, D., Kelmer, E., Dahan, Y. and Bruchim, Y.	58
Systemic <i>Toxoplasma gondii</i> Infection in a Cat with Incidental Cholangioma Bouznach, A., Edery, N., Kelmer, E., Shicah, N., Waner, T. and Perl, S.	64
Demonstration of the Diagnostic Value of Left and Right Lateral Radiographs in the Assessment of Gastric Foreign Bodies Harness, P.D. and Biller, D.S.	68

Front Cover: MERINO SHEEP

Merino sheep are considered to originate in Portugal, possibly as a Moorish importation. It is particularly well adapted to semiarid climates and to nomadic pasturing and has become to be prominent in many countries worldwide. It is economically prized for its wool that was already highly valued in the Middle Ages. Today, Merinos are regarded as having some of the finest and softest wool of any sheep.