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**Introduction of a clinical score for the evaluation of bacterial infection of dogs**

J G S Ranasinghe<sup>1\*</sup> and H Ranasinghe<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>*Department of Biochemistry, Faculty of Medicine, University of Peradeniya, Peradeniya.*

<sup>2</sup>*Government Veterinary Office, Warakapola*

An infection is the colonization of a host organism by a foreign species. The infective organism, or pathogen, interferes with the normal functioning of the host. Generally, when an infected dog is admitted to the clinic it may be at different stage of infection. For research purposes, it is essential to have clear guide lines to evaluate the severity of the clinical condition by giving some numerical values which can be repeatable. In this study, we graded the severity of general bacterial infection by evaluating the clinical condition of dogs giving a score based on the severity of clinical signs, symptoms, and appearance of the dogs.

A normal apparently healthy dog was given 0, mild abnormal subject as 0-2, moderate abnormal subject as 2-4 and above 4-5 indicated a severe abnormal subject. Body temperature, appetite and the appearance of dogs were used in grading the subjects into above groups. Dogs with the clinical severity score 1 and above 1 can be considered as clinically abnormal.

Using this method 26 dogs admitted to a clinic with bacterial infection were compared. Dogs admitted to the veterinary clinics due to bacterial infections other than diarrhoea were recruited for the study. They all belonged to the local breed (*Canis familiaris*) with an average body weight of (13.92± 1.998). All the subjects (n=26) were between 1 to 5 years (19.14±7.40) of both sexes (15 males and 11 females). These dogs were treated with different antibiotics and with other symptomatic treatments. Five days after the treatment, they were again evaluated by 2 veterinary surgeons and values were compared. Results show that this method can be used to evaluate a dog based on its clinical signs and also to assess the efficacy of a treatment in clinical trials. This clinical score values give an overall picture of the dog considering behavior and clinical signs. This each clinical sign can also be used separately according to the requirement of the clinician

\*shirani05@yahoo.com

Tel: 081-2396328