

MINK RANCHER'S ALMANAC



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8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

JAY HONEY / TILLAMOOK / OREGON

Here in Tillamook, the land of trees, cheese, and ocean breeze, the month of May is getting off to a good start as far as the weather is concerned; but it is a mite too early to estimate the future kit crop, but, so far, it looks good.

This month we pay strict attention to two very important things, and as competition keeps pressing in each year, they become more important. Not necessarily in order, but the first we will discuss is the fact that we put forth every effort to raise every kit that we possibly can.

(a) We will not leave one kit more with a mother than she can adequately care for.

(b) Very soon after birth, if their bellies are not full, we move at least some of them for fear the mother is a little slow in coming into her milk flow.

(c) Sometimes the mother will have sufficient milk for a short period and then slack off. In this case, we farm out some of them.

(d) Sometimes, with the quick growth of the kits and the increased demand for more food, the kits will find themselves short of milk and not ready to eat solid food. In this case, again we farm out the weaker ones.

(e) In some litters there seems to be a gap between sufficient milk and not enough solid foods. If something is not done about this we can lose a number of weak kits that are large enough to make us sick, for every small kit is a potential-pelt. To overcome this, we drop a little feed right in on top of them or again move some (if there is a place to put them).

(f) We keep a sharp eye for strayed kits that might be in the corner of the pen or on the ground or at birth left outside by the mother for dead. We have taken these cold, dead kits—at least the mother has taken that attitude—and put them in our pocket or carried them in our hands to get them warm and nursed back to life. But we found the quickest way, and very satisfactory at the same time, is to take them by the head and swish them back and forth in hot water (not hot enough to do any damage)

and then dry them with a rag and put them back.

We very seldom have a mother refuse to accept a transplant. We shut the mother out, put the orphans in



MINK DISEASES



JOHN GORHAM, D.V.M.

Preliminary Use of Live Attenuated Feline Panleukopenia Virus to Protect Mink Against Virus Enteritis*

By J. R. Gorham, G. R. Hartsough and D. Burger

The establishment of an immunologic relationship between feline panleukopenia (FLV) and mink virus enteritis (MVE) led to the use of formalin-inactivated FLV vaccine for the control of MVE.^{1,2} Mink can also be protected by administering pathogenic FLV subcutaneously or orally.³

For the past 6 years, we have intermittently tried to adapt feline panleukopenia to a convenient laboratory system. All of our attempts using tissue cultures and common laboratory animals proved unsuccessful. While work was in progress, we received a tissue culture-adapted mutation (Phil-

with the rest, and that is it. In case we cannot get the mother out, we place them outside the nest, then make a little noise out there, and in they go.

We don't want to give the impression that we save all our kits without losing any, for we do have dead kits and kits that die. It seems that there is nothing that we can do about it.

(g) Last, but not least, we do everything possible to get the kits to eating just as early as possible. We do not trust everything to every mother.

Now, the second thing we give special attention to is quality quality quality, for we do know something about competition. And as we take a good look into the future, this thing we call quality could be the only means by which we survive.

We feel that this standard of quality must be a mental picture stamped and made very clear in our minds of the most beautiful mink in the world.

We want to see a quality that shows

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ips Roxane Laboratories) of FLV for experimentation. The use of this virus mutation as a vaccine against mink virus enteritis is described in this column.

Vaccination Trial

Young mink from MVE susceptible females were inoculated subcutaneously with tissue culture-adapted FLV at intervals prior to challenge feeding with pathogenic MVE. One group of 10 mink received the FLV material by the oral route 10 days before pathogenic MVE challenge feeding (table 1).

The results reveal that a resistance to MVE is stimulated by this feline

Table 1. Results of mink virus-enteritis challenge exposure after vaccination with tissue culture-adapted feline panleukopenia.

No. of Mink	Route of Vaccination	No. of days before challenge exposure	Results of challenge*
10	by mouth	10	4/10
5	subcutaneous	10	0/5
5	"	6	0/5
5	"	3	0/5
5	"	2	2/5
5	"	1	4/5
5	"	0	4/5
40	no vaccine	—	37/40

* Numerator = number dead; denominator = total number of animals.

* Abstracted from the Cornell Veterinarian, Vol. LV: No. 4, Oct., 1965.

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