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E 136 Clearance Studies of In Vitro Forms of Antigen-Antibody Complexes in Normal and Aleutian Disease (AD) Virus Infected Mink. N. Srirangnathan,* D. Burger and J. R. Gorham, ARS, USDA and Washington State University, Pullman, Washington 99164.

Bovine serum Albumin (BSA) tagged with ¹²⁵I and rabbit anti-BSA were used as the antigen (Ag) and anti-body (Ab) in the expt. Normal mink were injected with ¹²⁵I-BSA alone. This showed blood (75%) retained most of the BSA during the 24 hr. observation period. At the end of this period all the animals were exsanguinated and organs were collected. Distribution of Ag-Ab complexes (91% precipitable) in normal mink showed that spleen (23%) and liver (72%) were the organs of clearance for the complexes. At 4 week post-infection (PI) immune-complexes distribution in standard (A-) and Aleutian (aa) mink were similar [i.e. in A- spleen (10%), liver (36%), muscles (28%) and in aa- spleen (9%), liver (38%), muscles (33%).] At 6 wk PI an elevation of gamma globulin, blood urea Nitrogen and serum protein levels were noted in some of the animals. The mink with progressive degenerative changes showed liver (27%), muscle (35%) and spleen (2%) distribution of immune-complexes. The mink with no degenerative changes reverted to normal clearance patterns liver (72%) and spleen (23%). These results allow us to speculate that Vesseculities lead to the deposition of immune complexes in animals that show progressive degenerative changes leading to emaciation and death. In the standard and recovering animals, these complexes were cleared eventually.