

DOMESTIC ANIMALS AND THEIR DISEASES

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By domestic animals in Siam is in prewar days, but drastic measures meant chiefly for cattle and water buffaloes, as these animals are widely used in agriculture and as means of other transportation in remote provinces of the country. Surplus animals are also one of Siam's exports to the neighbouring countries. Animal census before the war was estimated about 11 millions. But during the war the number was greatly reduced due to the following causes:-

- a. Slaughtering for food.
- b. Smuggling of animals across the border, due to shortage of animals in the surrounding countries.
- c. Death from infectious diseases, especially rinderpest.

As the war was over the problem which is now facing us is the high mortality of animals from rinderpest. The country had actually been infected even

including the killing system, were then taken in the eradication with the result that the areas in southern provinces along the peninsula were kept rinderpest free for a period of over ten years, and the outbreaks in the central provinces were well under control.

During the war, pack animals were also used as means of transportation. As no sufficient precautions were taken, the reinfections of rinderpest in the free areas of central and northern provinces were reported. Fortunately, the southern provinces of the country had been maintained rinderpest free throughout the war. This reinfection reduced not only the animal population of the country, but also caused the heavy loss of the draft animals for farming. Thus the farmers were forced to abandon their

farms for lack of working animals. The first step taken by the Government after the war was the concentration of Veterinary forces in the heavily infected areas of the central plain, the result obtained was very satisfactory. In this campaign against rinderpest, beside 4 million cc. of antirinderpest serum purchased from India, goat virus vaccine for cattle and tissue vaccin for the buffaloes were also used in great amount. The provinces in the central plain are now almost free from rindenpest, except in some places where the disease is well under control. At present rinderpest is vigorously attacked in the north eastern provinces which has been and still is the source of reinfection to the central provinces. It is hoped that the disease would completely be eradicated or pinned down along the border in the near future. (Condensed from Journal of the Siamese Veterinary Association, October 1948; page 14-18 Y. Hastisevi)