

INVESTIGATION OF NATIVE WILDLIFE CASES PRESENTED TO VETERINARY AND REHABILITATION FACILITIES IN TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO OVER A 10 YEAR PERIOD.

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Disease outbreaks within wildlife populations are often noteworthy when there is increased zoonotic disease emergence in human populations. This poses a public threat to humans especially in Trinidad and Tobago where the culture is strongly rooted in ‘wild meat’ consumption. This retrospective study from 2012 to 2021 was aimed at determining the major types of diseases that affect wildlife, the taxonomy of species affected, diagnostic approaches used and treatment effectiveness. The data pooled consisted of 305 endemic wildlife cases collected from centers across Trinidad. The most prevalent presenting complaint was wildlife found out of habitat at 25.57%, followed by trauma caused by an animal at 20.66%. Supportive therapy was the most common treatment administered at 48.33%. The study highlighted the lack of diagnostics provided for wildlife cases to ascertain disease aetiology and poor treatment efficacy with high case fatality rate of 36.72% along with the need to improve record keeping.

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