

Will,

I think that you and Valerius are right on! Jack and I believe as you do.

I'll forward this to Jack and our other primary contacts [Bcc--26] for his and their return comment to you also.

With proper funding/donations the WPCA through our current on going E.g. study, which includes coyotes and foxes, can independently check for *Neospora* and determine where it is and what the actual or potential impact can be. Our problem with going through the State associated laboratories is they tend to report, even after finding potential disease problems, a down played political version rather than a true complete version of the results of their tests. What I call selective truths and partial science.

Additionally, we have tested coyotes and foxes in our area, limited sample to date, and have found no evidence of E.g. or E.m. in them. However, we know the E.g. is well established in our areas and that a great number of Elk are now being taken with Hydatid Cysts where until recently no Hydatid Cysts had been reported in Elk. We expect that we will be finding deer with cysts during this hunting season.

We are currently in a battle with the Veterinary Community in some parts of "our wolf injected area" over the issue of cattle and horses being at risk for Hydatid Disease. They still fail to recognize the impact that wolves, from a disease stand point, are having, can have and will have on big game, livestock and family pets, not to mention people. Too, they ignore the potential and actual indicators of the evolving disease based economic disaster ahead.

As I'm sure you are aware *E. granulosus* has and is having wide spread effects on cattle and the cattle industry worldwide. But we have local vets that fail completely to recognize the potential for a similar impact in our areas. For example, in Australia [Queensland] from 1981 through 2004 millions of dollars have been lost as a result of infected vital organs. The review report notes that somewhere in the neighborhood of 33,000 cattle were infected with an escalating economic loss from \$500,000 in 1981 to \$6,000,000 in 2004.

What many of the local Vets are saying in our area, probably from fear of creating a devastating impact on our cattle business, rather than from a true science standpoint, is that because of the cattle's digestive system has a Ph level that normally attacks the eggs/oncospheres, our cattle cannot get Hydatid Disease. All reports that have been reviewed relative to cattle from worldwide cattle raising areas say this is not so.

Cattle can and do get Hydatid Disease as do horses. However, it seems obvious that cattle and horses are not the major intermediate hosts and hence do not keep the life cycle of *E. granulosus* active. They are more of a "dead end host" in much the same way as are humans.

Is our cattle/horse information consistent with your knowledge? Would appreciate your feedback.

Best Regards, Clay