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Veterinari Medicina

Malicious animal intoxications: poisoned baits

Giorgi M, Mengozzi G:

Veterinari Medicina, 56 (2011): 173-179

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Data of toxicological analyses for baits carried out in the Laboratory of Toxicology of the Department of Veterinary Clinics (University of Pisa) over a 10-year period are summarized. The 508 lures have been grouped according to their preparation features. This classification has generated six classes: (1) baits prepared with discarded or out-of-date food; (2) laborious and original/particular baits; (3) baits containing more than one toxic substance; (4) baits containing non-toxic material; (5) baits prepared with non-food material and (6) *in vivo* baits. The most commonly detected toxic substances in baits were organophosphorus and carbamate

rodenticides (18%), zinc phosphide (12%), strychnine (9%), metaldehyde (8%) and others (5%). This survey shows that in Italy, the deliberate misuse or abuse of toxic substances intended to kill domestic animals, is very common and still far from being eradicated. Elaboration of a complex strategy, involving authorities as well as veterinarians and citizens, is the first step to defeat this harmful practice.

Keywords:

poisoned baits; veterinary toxicology; suspicious death; poisoning; lures

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