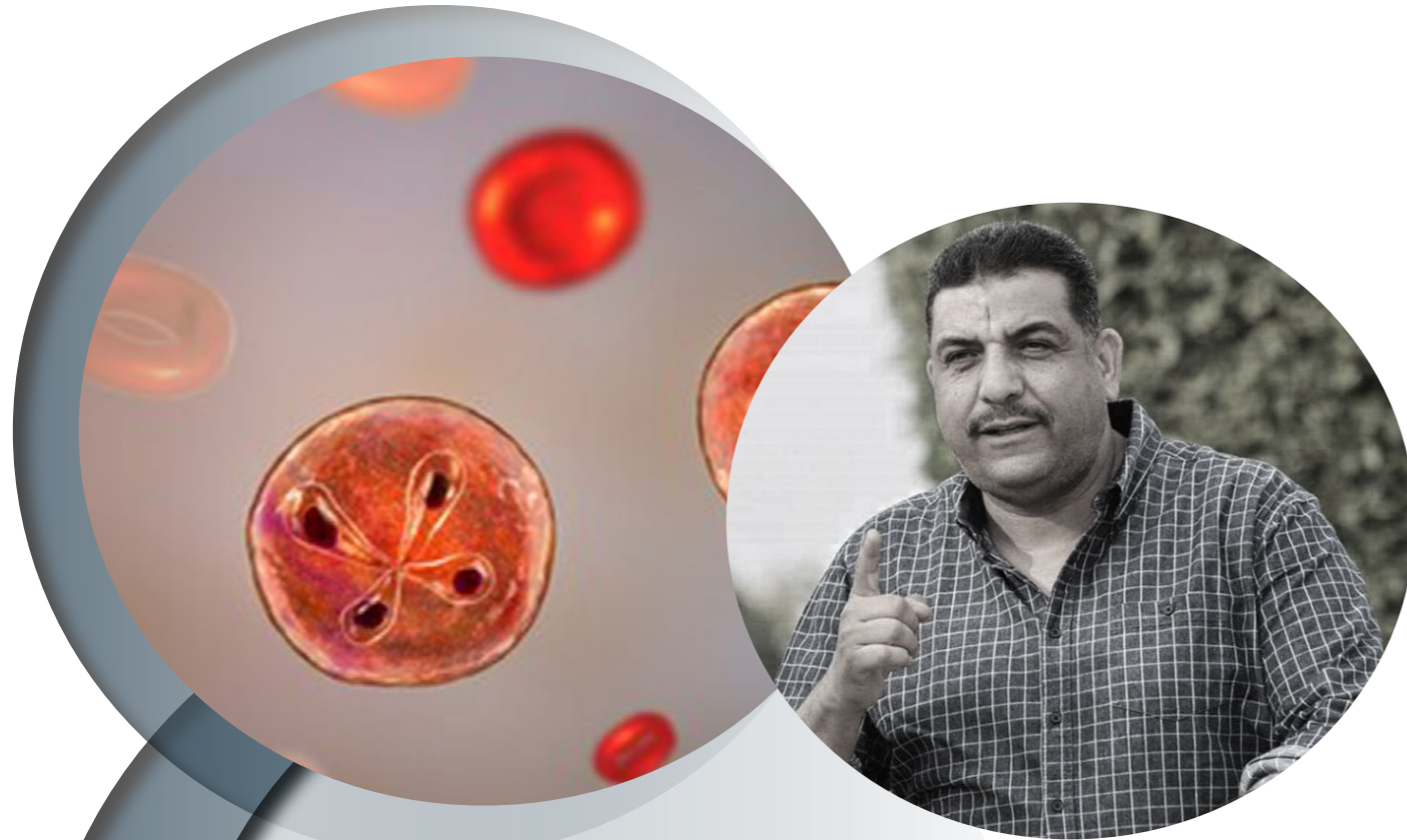MEDICAL

BABESIOSIS

BY Dr. Ashraf El-Kalla

A LOT OF HORSE OWNERS HEAR THAT TERM "I DON'T KNOW HOW TO DEAL WITH THAT KIND OF DISEASE" AND SOME PEOPLE IN THE MIDDLE EAST FALSELY CALL IT MALARIA OF HORSES, CAVALVET MEDICAL TEAM WILL TAKE YOU THROUGH THE SIGNS AND TELL YOU HOW TO HANDLE IT BUT FIRST WE NEED TO KNOW THE MEANING OF THAT TERM.

Equine babesiosis, a.k.a. equine piroplasmosis, is caused by tick-borne parasites: Theileria equi, Babesia caballi, or both. Theileria equi was previously known as B. equi and was reclassified in 1998 to the genus Theileria.

Theileria equi and B. caballi are endemic in 90% of the world (South and Central America, the Caribbean, Africa, the Middle East, and Eastern and Southern Europe).

The disease is more common in horses older than 6 months of age.

Sources of infection:

• Blood infected with causative parasites of piroplasmosis and associated vectors (i.e. ticks and mechanical vectors (used syringe)

Important: It can't be transmitted by other arthropods like the mosquitoes and flies

• Infected animals may remain carriers of these blood parasites for long periods and act as sources.

Clinical signs:

The clinical signs of equine piroplasmosis are often nonspecific,it can occur in (4 forms) peracute, acute, subacute and chronic forms.

Peracute form • Sudden death animals

Subacute form

• show signs of mild colic

• Mucous membranes yellowish to bright

yellow fig.(2)

•weight loss

Acute form

• fever

• off appetite

• Congestion of mucous
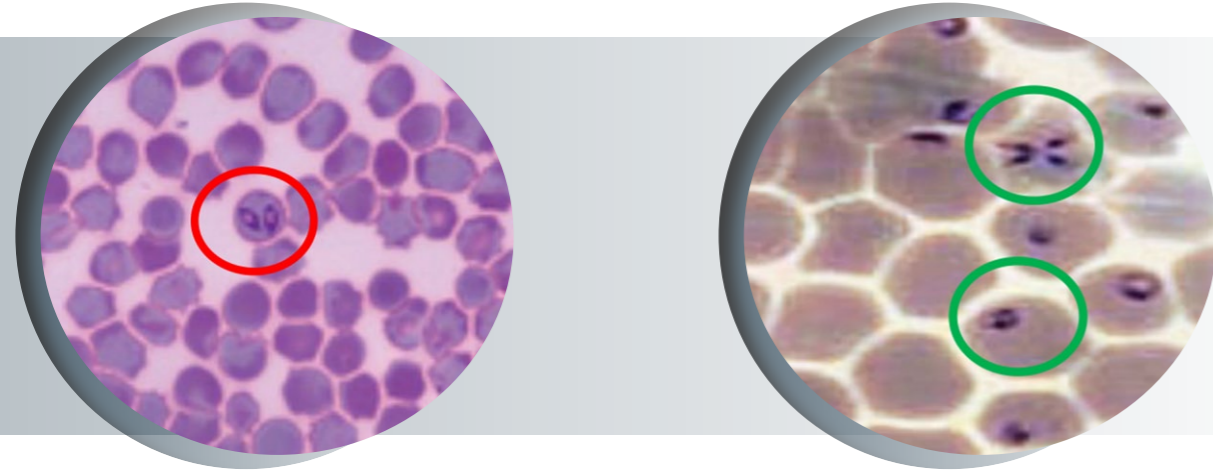
membranes

• a dark red urine fig.(1)

Chronic form

• poor performance and a drop in

body mass fig.(3)

Lab. Diagnosis

Blood smears using stains (Giemsa).

Intraerythrocytic Babesia caballi and Theileria equi In blood smear stained with

Giemsa fig.(4&5)

Treatment:

Administer imidocarb (imidox) fig.(6)

Adminstration of Oxytertacycline fig.(7)

We recommend to use cavalor pow red performance as it regulate the blood circulation and avoid blood hemolysis. fig.(8)