

unilateral scrotal hernia. Unilateral orchiectomy caused no significant change in semen characteristics in 9 healthy bulls. Unilateral orchiectomy returned 5 of 8 (63%) bulls with testicular abnormalities to breeding soundness.

## References

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## Abstract

### Fatal marijuana poisoning in cattle

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Marijuana, the narcotic produced from *Cannabis sativa*, is considered a weak poison for animals. Marijuana toxicosis is not rare in dogs that have access to the drug, although many cases probably go unreported because of legal implications. Clinical signs in dogs resemble those seen in humans: odd behaviour, weakness, tremors, incoordination, salivation and nausea.

A Brazilian veterinary scientist reported a case of marijuana toxicosis in five cattle that were grazed with access to mysterious, plastic-wrapped bales of dried leaves. The farmer believed the bales to be poor-quality hay. Signs of toxicosis started at about 20 h after ingestion and included muscle tremors, frothing from the

mouth, incoordination and reluctance to move. Four cattle died within 3 days. One survived without treatment.

Three of the cattle were necropsied and plastic bags were found in the rumens. Autolysis made detailed examination difficult but no inflammatory lesions were observed. Analysis of the forestomach contents revealed tetrahydrocannabinol in two of the cattle.

The author estimated that the cattle between them ate about 35 kg of marijuana. They were in poor body condition and the pasture contained little hay. Although it is not a strong poison, marijuana may be lethal to cattle if consumed in large quantities.