APPENDIX

Definition of Medical Term

Arthralgia  The presence of painful joints in the absence of frank arthritis.

Ascites  Accumulation of fluid in the peritoneal cavity. Peritoneum is the membrane that forms the lining of the abdominal cavity - it covers most of the intra-abdominal organs.

Circumoral cyanosis  Blue tint to the skin surrounding the lips, but not on the lips.

Conjunctival injection  Red eyes characterized by dilated blood vessels causing the appearance of redness on the surface of the eye.

Ecchymosis  Bruise caused by injury. It can be seen in patients with platelet or coagulation disorders.

Epistaxis  Nose bleeding.

Gastrointestinal bleeding  Bleeding of the digestive tract.

Leucopenia  Low white blood count.

Haematemesis  The vomiting of fresh red blood. The source is generally the upper gastrointestinal tract.

Haematuria  Appearance of blood in the urine.

Haemoconcentration  An increase in the concentration of cellular elements in the blood, resulting from loss of plasma.

Haemorrhage  Medical term meaning bleeding.

Haemostasis  Refers to a process whereby bleeding is halted in most animals with a closed circulatory system.

Hematocrit  Erythrocyte volume fraction, i.e. the percentage of the volume of a blood sample occupied by red blood cells.

Hepatomegaly  Enlargement of the liver (swelling).
Hess test Synonymous with Tourniquet Test. In this test the intracapillary pressure is raised by occluding veins with a tourniquet. A positive test is indicated if petechiae develop - in general this occurs in patients with thrombocytopenia, small vessel abnormality and impaired platelet function - but it may also occur in normal individuals.

Hypoproteinemia Abnormally low level of protein in the blood; can indicate inadequate diet or intestinal or renal disorders.

Hypotension Abnormally low blood pressure. It is often associated with shock, though not necessarily indicative of it.

Lymphadenopathy Enlargement of lymph nodes and when inflammation occurs within the node it is called lymphadenitis.

Melaena The passage of black tarry motions per rectum (dark black faeces). It is often caused by hemorrhage in the stomach or duodenum (upper gastrointestinal tract), for example by a peptic ulcer.

Menorrhagia Abnormally heavy and prolonged menstrual periods.

Myalgia Muscle pain.

Petechiae Pinpoint-sized hemorrhages of small capillaries in the skin or mucous membranes.

Pharyngeal injection Swelling of pharynx or throat

Pleural effusion Medical condition where fluid accumulates in the pleural cavity which surrounds the lungs, making it hard to breathe.

Retro-orbital pain Pain behind the eyes.

Thrombocytopenia Presence of relatively few platelets in blood.

Tourniquet test Refer to Hess Test.

Tonsillar injection Enlargement of tonsils. Tonsils are areas of lymphoid tissue on either side of the throat