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Abstract

This paper presents the findings of an exploratory study on ethnoveterinary medicines used for backyard pigs and backyard chickens in Trinidad and Tobago. Research data was collected from 1995 to September 2000. Six plants are used for backyard pigs. Crushed leaves of immortelle (*Erythrina pallida*, *E. micropteryx*) are used to remove dead piglets from the uterus. Leaf decoctions of bois canôt (*Cecropia peltata*) and bamboo (*Bambusa vulgaris*) are used for labour pains or leaves are fed as a postpartum cleanser. Boiled green papaya fruit (*Carica papaya*) is fed to pigs to induce milk let-down. The leaves and flowers of male papaya plants (*Carica papaya*) are fed to de-worm pigs. Sour orange juice (*Citrus aurantium*) is given to pigs to produce lean meat, and coffee grounds are used for scours. Eyebright and plantain leaves (*Plantago major*) are used for eye injuries of backyard chickens. Worm grass (*Chenopodium ambrosioides*) and cotton bush (*Gossypium* species) are used as anthelmintics. Aloe gel (*Aloe vera*) is used for internal injuries and the yellow sap from the cut *Aloe vera* leaf or the juice of *Citrus limonia* is used to purge the birds. A literature review revealed few toxicity concerns and the potential usefulness of the plants.

Keywords

Ethnoveterinary medicine - Trinidad and Tobago - Backyard chickens - Backyard pigs

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