CONTENTS

LIST OF TABLES .................................................................XIV
LIST OF FIGURES .............................................................XV
ABBREVIATIONS AND DEFINITIONS...........................................XVII

CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

1.1 RABIES .................................................................1
  1.1.1 A historical perspective of rabies .........................1
  1.1.2 Epidemiology of rabies ........................................3
    1.1.2.1 Global threat of rabies ..............................3
    1.1.2.2 Rabies in Asia ......................................4
    1.1.2.3 Indian scenario of rabies ...........................4
  1.1.3 The disease: Rabies ..........................................6
    1.1.3.1 Clinical features in humans ......................6
    1.1.3.2 Transmission of rabies ...........................7
  1.1.4 Etiology of rabies ...........................................8
    1.1.4.1 Rabies virus .......................................8
    1.1.4.2 Structure of the rabies virus ....................8
    1.1.4.3 Replication of the rabies virus ................11
    1.1.4.4 Pathogenesis of the rabies virus .................14
  1.1.5 Diagnosis of rabies disease ............................16
    1.1.5.1 Immunochemical detection of rabies virus ......16
    1.1.5.2 Detection based on replication of rabies
              virus ..............................................17
    1.1.5.3 Detection of rabies nucleic acid by polymerase
              chain reaction (PCR) technique ..................18
1.1.6 Control of rabies .................................................................18

1.1.6.1 Prevention and treatment of rabies

in humans .................................................................18

1.1.6.2 Prevention of rabies in dogs ....................19

1.1.6.3 Other measures to control rabies ..................19

1.2 ANTIrabIES SERUM .............................................................20

1.2.1 Importance of antirabies serum ......................20

1.2.2 Types of antirabies serum ...........................20

1.2.2.1 Human rabies immunoglobulin (HRIG) ....22

1.2.2.2 Equine rabies immunoglobulin (ERIG) ....22

1.2.3 Administration of antirabies serum ..................23

1.2.4 Production of equine rabies immunoglobulin ........23

1.2.5 Potency of antirabies serum .........................26

1.2.5.1 Virus neutralization test using mice ..........26

1.2.5.2 Rapid fluorescent focus inhibition test

(RFFIT) .................................................................26

1.2.5.3 Fluorescent antibody virus neutralization test (FAVN)....27

1.2.5.4 Radial immunodiffusion (RID) assay .............27

1.2.5.5 Counter immunoelectrophoresis test (CIET) ....28

1.2.5.6 Enzyme-linked immuno sorbent assay (ELISA) ......28

1.3 PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH THE USE OF ANIMALS

FOR ROUTINE EVALUATIONS ........................................32

1.4 SCOPE OF THE PRESENT WORK .................................34

1.4.1 Objectives of the present study .....................35
CHAPTER 2: MATERIALS AND METHODS

2.1 ANIMALS, CHEMICALS AND BIOCHEMICALS .........................36
  2.1.1 Horses selection, management and grouping .......................36
  2.1.2 Standard rabies virus ..............................................37
  2.1.3 Mice .................................................................37
  2.1.4 Vaccines ..............................................................38
  2.1.5 Antirabies serum reference standard ...............................38
  2.1.6 Chemicals and biochemicals .......................................38

2.2 IMMUNIZATION OF ANIMALS .............................................38
  2.2.1 Preparation of immunogen in adjuvants ............................38
  2.2.2 Immunization of horses .............................................39

2.3 SAMPLE COLLECTIONS .....................................................44
  2.3.1 Blood collection in horses .........................................44
  2.3.2 Preparation of plasma ..............................................44
  2.3.3 Separation of antirabies antibodies .................................44
  2.3.4 Preparation of a ‘Batch’ of antirabies serum .....................45

2.4 PREPARATION OF INFECTED MOUSE BRAIN ..........................45

2.5 DETERMINATION OF LD<sub>50</sub> OF RABIES VIRUS .................45

2.6 VIRUS NEUTRALIZATION TEST USING MICE .......................46
  2.6.1 Inactivation of sera ................................................46
  2.6.2 Neutralization .......................................................46
  2.6.3 Titration of virus control ..........................................46
  2.6.4 Mice infectivity assay .............................................47
  2.6.5 Calculation of antibody titer .....................................47
2.7 INDIRECT ELISA TEST .................................................................47

2.8 STANDARDIZATION OF ELISA ....................................................48
  2.8.1 Standardization of ELISA for horse sera .........................49
  2.8.2 Standardization of ELISA for plasma .............................50
  2.8.3 Standardization of ELISA for purified sera .....................50
  2.8.4 Standardization of ELISA for batch sera .......................50

2.9 VALIDATION OF ELISA FOR EVALUATION OF
  ANTIRABIES ANTIBODIES IN HORSE SERA .......................51
  2.9.1 Comparison of antirabies antibodies in horse serum
          by virus neutralization test and ELISA ..........................51
  2.9.2 Evaluation of positive and negative controls during testing of
          antirabies antibodies in horse sera by ELISA ...................51

2.10 PROTEIN ESTIMATION ............................................................51
  2.10.1 Lowry protein assay ......................................................51

2.11 OUCHTERLONY TEST ..............................................................52
  2.11.1 Composition of tris glycine buffer, pH 8.6 .....................52

2.12 SDS PAGE OF RABIES VACCINES (RABIPUR & RABIVAC) ......52
  2.12.1 Reagents ..................................................................52
  2.12.2 Preparation of reagents ..............................................53
  2.12.3 SDS-PAGE gel composition .........................................54
  2.12.4 Procedure ................................................................54

2.13 STATISTICAL ANALYSIS ..........................................................55
  2.13.1 Correlation between VNT and indirect ELISA tests ..........56
  2.13.2 Specificity and sensitivity .............................................56
  2.13.3 Computation of Cohen’s kappa index ............................56
CHAPTER 3: RESULTS

3.1 SDS PAGE, RABIPUR AND RABIVAC VACCINES ......................58

3.2 OUCHTERLONY IMMUNODIFFUSION OF ANTIRABIES
SERUM AGAINST RABIPUR AND RABIVAC VACCINE ...............59

3.3 STANDARDIZATION OF INDIRECT ELISA TEST ....................60
  3.3.1 To determine dilutions of Rabipur antigen, horse sera and
          secondary antibody in ELISA test ..............................60
  3.3.2 ELISA in determination of antirabies titer in plasma .........63
  3.3.3 ELISA in determination of antirabies titer in purified serum ...64
  3.3.4 ELISA in determination of antirabies titer in batch serum ....66
  3.3.5 Conclusion on standardization of ELISA ..........................67

3.4 VALIDATION OF ELISA TEST FOR EVALUATION OF
ANTIRABIES ANTIBODIES IN HORSE SERA .........................69
  3.4.1 Evaluation of positive and negative controls during testing
          of horse sera samples by indirect ELISA ........................69
  3.4.2 Simultaneous assay of antirabies antibodies in horse
          serum by indirect ELISA and VNT ..............................70

3.5 ANTIRABIES ANTIBODY PROFILE OF HORSES DETERMINED
       BY ELISA ..........................................................................71
  3.5.1 ELISA for segregation of horses on the basis of immune
          status ............................................................................71
  3.5.2 Changing immune status of horses as monitored by ELISA ......73
3.6 REPEATED ELISA EXPERIMENTS WITH PLASMA, PURIFIED SERA AND BATCH SERA SAMPLES ........................................74

3.7 STATISTICAL ANALYSIS OF RESULTS: VNT AND ELISA ..........75
  3.7.1 Correlation between VNT and ELISA Tests .......................76
  3.7.2 Linear regression analysis ............................................77
  3.7.3 Receiver-Operator characteristic curve analysis .................78
  3.7.4 Cohen’s kappa index ..................................................79
  3.7.5 Statistical summary ...................................................81

CHAPTER 4: DISCUSSION .....................................................82

CHAPTER 5: SUMMARY .....................................................90

CHAPTER 6: REFERENCES ..................................................93