

A LOW COST ELECTRIC MOTOR DRIVEN INSTRUMENT TO MAINTAIN ORAL HYGIENE IN PET ANIMALS

M.L.A.N.R. DEEPANI*, A. RATNASOORIYA** AND I. GOONERATNE**

**Faculty of Veterinary Medicine & Animal Science and **Faculty of Medicine, University of Peradeniya*

Though animal dentistry is a well-recognized domain in the west, it has not gained its due recognition in Sri Lanka for which motivation of both the clientele and the veterinarian is important. However, there is a growing demand at present.

Polishing of teeth, using a suitable commercially available polishing paste is an accepted practice in the management of oral hygiene. Polishing brushes are fixed to the relevant equipment in the dental chair (which is expensive) when such treatment is applied to humans.

At present, no locally made tooth-polishing instrument is available, and therefore an attempt was made to make an easy to handle, low cost, instrument to be used on pet animals in any veterinary clinic.

The instrument consists of a powerful electric motor in a cylinder-shaped casing. The axle of the motor is connected to a "chuck", which can hold a rotary brush. The chuck can accommodate different types of polishing accessories depending on the requirement.

The instrument can be powered either by batteries (if electricity is not available in the clinic) or using 230V AC mains with the AC adapter supplied with the kit. In addition, the speed and the torque of the motor can be adjusted depending on the requirement.

Initial treatments carried-out with this instrument have shown that it can be effectively used on pet animals under general anaesthesia.