ABSTRACT

Munag'andu, H.M. Siamudaala, V.M. Nambota, A., Bwalya, J.M. Munyeme, M. Mweene, A.S., Takada, A. & Kida, H. (2006). Disease constraints for utilization of the African buffalo (*Syncerus caffer*) on game ranches in Zambia. *Jpn. J. Vet. Res.,* 54(1): 3 – 13.

Eco-tourism depending on wildlife is becoming increasingly profitable and landowners are beginning to favour game farming and ecotourism. In these areas, large-scale translocation of wildlife involves a diversity of species and large populations. The African buffalo (*Syncerus caffer*) is one of the major tourist attractions in Zambia. It accounts for 8.7 and 12.4% of the total animal species hunted in the Game Management Areas and the total hunting revenue earned in Zambia, respectively. It is ecologically an important animal species essential for the purpose of habitat control and facilitating the provision of suitable grazing pastures. However, the rearing of the African buffalo on game ranches has been hampered by its carrier state of the Southern Africa Territory（SAT）serotypes of foot and mouth disease virus（FMD The African buffalo is also known to be a carrier of Theileria parva lawrencei, the causative agent of corridor disease (CD) that continues to have devastating effects on the livestock industry in Zambia. In addition, the importation of buffaloes from countries with populations endemic to bovine tuberculosis is highly restricted. Veterinary regulations in Zambia, strongly advocate against the translocation of buffaloes from protected areas to private ranches for disease control purposes thereby mounting a considerable constraint on the economic and ecological viability of the industry. It is hoped that this review will motivate the relevant government authorities in exploiting ways in which this animal species play a central role in eco-tourism.