

Occurrence of *Angiostrongylus vasorum* in domestic and wild carnivores in Slovakia – preliminary results of first epidemiological study

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The increase of canine lungworm infection cases in Central Europe raised the attention of parasitologists and veterinarians; however the reason of spreading this snail-borne disease is still not fully understood. The most frequent hypothesis affiliates this spread to rising abundance of reservoir hosts (red foxes) in wildlife. In Slovakia the occurrence of most important lungworm, *Angiostrongylus vasorum* has been confirmed. The first case of canine angiostrongylosis was published in 2013 by Hurníková et al. Nevertheless, the epidemiological data on current distribution of the infection in Slovakia are still missing.

The aim of this study is to perform the first epidemiological research of angiostrongylosis in Slovakia and to compare the prevalence of this serious respiratory disease in populations of domestic and free living carnivores. Feacal samples from 568 wild carnivores (*Vulpes vulpes*, *Canis lupus*, *Martes martes*, *Meles meles*, *Nyctereutes procyonoides* and *Ursus arctos*) and 293 domestic dogs from different areas of Slovakia were examined by modified flotation method with zinc-sulphate solution and by modified Baermann technique.

The results showed the prevalence of angiostrongylosis in wild carnivores being 5.11 % and in dogs 4.44 %. Our results confirmed the general distribution pattern of angiostrongylosis – occurrence in hyperendemic foci. Preliminary results of our study show a stable incidence of angiostrongylosis Slovakia with relatively high prevalence.

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