

## A changes in the occurrence of parasites in dogs and cats over the last years

Klaudiusz Szczepaniak, Krzysztof Tomczuk, Andrzej Junkuszew

**THE AIM OF THE STUDY.** The aim of this study was to assess the change in the occurrence of internal parasites of dogs and cats in the Lublin region in between the years 1999–2003 and 2016–2019.

**MATERIAL AND METHODS.** The research was carried out on stool specimens from 440 cats and 862 dogs collected from January 2016 to April 2019. The results obtained were compared with retrospective data from 1999–2003, in which 194 cats and 756 dogs were examined in analogy.

**RESULTS.** Between the years in which the study was carried out, the prevalence of internal parasite invasion decreased in dogs by 10.7% and in cats by 25.6%. A decrease of helminth's prevalence by 58.4% in dogs and 65.2% in cats was found, while the general prevalence of protozoa increased. Of all the positive results obtained in dogs, protozoan infections were found in a total of 67.7% while in cats 74.5%. Currently, the giardiosis is predominant invasion of companion animals in Lublin region. The average prevalence of *Giardia* sp. invasion was 25% in dogs and 27,2 in cats.

**CONCLUSIONS.** Many factors can affect the observed changes in the occurrence of endoparasites amongs companions animals. One of the most important is the widespread use of anti-helminthic drugs, which significantly reduced the occurrence of helminths and increase the prevalence of intestinal protozoa in dogs and cats. Other incriminated factors probably are the intensification of global transports, increasing forestation, goods' and animals' movements, urbanization and reduction of wild habitats, colonization of new areas by vectors and an increase in awareness and diagnosis.