

Intestinal parasites in household dogs with diarrhea (in Wrocław)

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Despite the use of various deworming practices, parasites are still a common problem in household dogs. Gastrointestinal parasites are - among viruses, bacteria and different nutritional factors - the significant cause of diarrhea in dogs. In highly developed countries it is estimated, that parasites are responsible for nearly 12 % cases of chronic diarrhea in dogs.

This study reported the presence of gastrointestinal parasites from 130 companion dogs with diarrhea that were brought to the Division of Parasitology the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine (Wrocław) between October 2016 and June 2019. The age of the dogs ranged from two months to eighteen years. Animals were grouped based on age (under three months old, between three months and one year, between one and eight years old and over eight years old). Fresh fecal samples were examined using routine flotation technique (with ZnSO₄ solution). Commercial enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) was used for the detection of soluble *Giardia* antigen. Ziehl-Neelsen staining fecal smears were prepared for detection of oocyst of *Cryptosporidium* spp. Jone's medium and liquid medium in own modification were used for cultivation of *Blas-tocystis* and *Trichomonas* spp.

RESULTS. The following parasites, with their respective prevalence, were diagnosed in over 30 % of diarrheic fecal sample of dogs: *Giardia duodenalis* (>30%), *Cystoisospora* spp. (7 %), *Trichuris vulpis* (6%), *Toxocara canis* (4%) and Ancylostomatidae (4%). In addition, single cases of *Cryptosporidium* spp. and *Trichomonas* spp. were found. In some cases, mixed invasions were found. The prevalence of most parasites was higher in group of dogs between three and twelve months of age. The parasites were found with the lowest frequency in the group of older animals (over eight years). The prevalence of *Trichuris vulpis* was significantly lower in young dogs than in adult. The prevalence of *Giardia* spp. and *Cystoisospora* spp. was higher in young dogs (under three months of age and between two and twelve months of age). Results of the study indicated, that protozoan parasites, still can play an important role in etiology of diarrhea in household dogs.