Parasitic lesions occurring in game ruminants identified during hunting

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The aim of this publication is to present parasites and parasitic lesions occurring in carcasses and internal organs of hunted roe deer (*Capreolus capreolus*), red deer (*Cervus elaphus*) and fallow deer (*Dama dama*) that were observed during field dressing and parasitological autopsy. The research was carried out during hunting (group and individual) and a parasitological section with photographic documentation was performed.

1. Skin and subcutaneous tissue. For epidermal arthropods the most frequent are the deer ked (deer fly, *Lipoptena cervi*) invasions and infestation of ticks (*Ixodes ricinus*). After skinning, migrating larvae of *Hypoderma diana* may be observed.

2. Nasopharyngeal cavity. In roe deer the larvae of *Cephenemyia stimulator* were the most often noted.

3. Trachea and lungs. The respiratory system is mainly infected by lung nematodes belonging to two families: Dictyocaulidae (*Dictyocaulus eckerti*), located in the bronchi and trachea, and Protostrongylidae (*Varestrongylus capreoli*), located in the alveoli and small bronchi.

4. Heart. It is a frequent location for blackheads of various types of tapeworms, most often of the genus *Taenia* and *Echinococcus*.

5. Liver. In this gland, as well as in the heart, tapeworms and flukes (*Fasciola hepatica* and *Dicrocoelium dendriticum*) were found. Pathological lesions caused by flukes were seen in the bile ducts.

6. The digestive tract. Various species of parasites can be found practically in the entire digestive system (starting from prestomachs to large intestines). *Paramphistomum cervi* is rarely noticed in the prestomachs. In the abomasum Trichostrongylidae nematodes, eg. *Haemonchus contortus* and the genus *Ostertagia*, are very often seen, and in the intestines Trichostrongylidae, Molineidae, Ancylostomatidae, Strongylidae and tapeworms of the *Moniezia* genus.

7. Fascia, peritoneum. Tapeworm blackheads, eg. *Cysticercus tenuicolis*, are often located in these locations. Tetratyridium (the *Mesocestoides* sp. developmental stage) can be found in the abdominal cavity and *Setaria tundra* on the serous membranes.

The knowledge of the most common parasites and parasitic lesions in game animals allow the proper handling of the carcass during and after hunting.