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Acta Medica Iranica

2009;47(4) : 34-39

Original Article

Intestinal Helminthoses in Dogs in Kaduna Metropolis, Kaduna State, Nigeria

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Received: September 18,2008

Accept : February 3,2009

Available online: March 9,2009

Abstract:

Background: Intestinal helminths in dogs provide a potential source of infection in humans due to the close contact between humans and dogs. Due to the limited information on parasites infecting dogs in Kaduna State, Nigeria, a cross sectional study was conducted with the aim of determining the diversity and prevalence of intestinal helminths of dogs in the area.

Methods: During the survey, 160 gastrointestinal tracts of dogs killed for meat selected by simple sampling technique were collected and examined for helminths in Kaduna metropolis, latitude 10^o 50¹ N and longitude 7^o 50¹ E.

Results: Of the helminths found, *Dipylidium caninum* (75.0%), *Taenia hydatigena* (43.8%), *Diphyllobothrium latum* (6.3%), *Ancylostoma caninum* (6.3%) and *Toxocara canis* (6.3%) were the most common. Female dogs were more likely of contacting intestinal helminths than male dogs (RR = 1.125). Higher mean worm burden was recorded for dogs infected by *T. hydatigena* and *D. caninum* than dogs infected by *T. canis*, *D. latum* or *A. caninum*.

Conclusion: The presence of these parasites in dogs examined indicates a potential public health problem in Kaduna metropolis. Mass enlightenment of dog keepers on the need for periodic veterinary care and restriction of stray dogs through legislation formulation and enforcement are recommended as possible control measures.

Keywords:

Prevalence . Dog . Intestinal helminths . Public health . Zoonoses . Nigeria

TUMS ID: 12731

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