GASTROINTESTINAL PARASITES OF DOGS AND CATS IN A REFUGE IN NAKHON NAYOK, THAILAND

Wichit Rojekittikhun¹, Kittipong Chaisiri¹, Aongart Mahittikorn², Somchit Pubampen¹, Surapon Sa-nguankiat¹, Teera Kusolsuk¹, Wanna Maipanich¹, Ruenruetai Udonsom² and Hirotake Mori²

¹Department of Helminthology, ²Department of Protozoology, Faculty of Tropical Medicine, Mahidol University, Bangkok, Thailand

Abstract. We collected fecal samples from 500 dogs and 300 cats from an animal refuge in Nakhon Nayok Province, Thailand to test for gastrointestinal protozoa and helminths using a formalin-ether concentration technique. The overall prevalence of parasites in stool from dogs was 36.2% (181/500), 35.7% (177/500) had helminths and 2.8% (14/500) had protozoa. The helminths were: hookworm (30.6%), Trichuris vulpis (16.0%), Toxocara canis (6.6%), Hymenolepis diminuta (1.2%), Spirometra mansoni (0.6%), and Dipylidium caninum (0.2%). Giardia duodenalis (2.8%) was found in the stool of dogs. The overall prevalence of parasites in stool from cats was 44.3% (133/300), 43.3% (130/300) were helminths and 6.0% (18/300) were protozoa. The helminths were hookworm (34.7%), T. cati (9.7%), S. mansoni (4.0%), Platynosomum fastosum (2.7%), Strongyloides sp (0.7%), and Echinostoma sp (0.3%). Two species of protozoa, Isospora sp (5.7%) and G. duodenalis (0.3%) were found in the stool of cats. Two percent of dogs and 5.0% of cats had mixed protozoan and helminthic infections. Dogs with double, triple, and quadruple helminthic infections were found at rates of 22.0%, 2.8%, and 0.2%, respectively. Cats with double and triple helminthic infections were found at rates of 9.7% and 1.0%, respectively. Quadruple helminthic infections were not found in cats, and double protozoan infections were not found in either dogs or cats.

Keywords: gastrointestinal parasites, dogs, cats, animal refuge, Thailand