

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

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**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

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