

Article

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## THE PREVALENCE OF INTESTINAL PARASITES IN DOGS FROM SHELTERS IN CONSTANȚA COUNTY-ROMANIA

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### Abstract

This study was designed to evaluate the prevalence of gastrointestinal parasites in shelter dogs from Constanța, a south-eastern county from Romania. In order to assess, in 2022 and 2023, individual and pooled fecal samples, were collected from 611 dogs from 9 shelters. Fecal samples were examined using standard flotation and sedimentation methods. The overall prevalence of gastrointestinal parasites was 74.63%. Eggs of hookworms (*Ancylostoma* sp. and *Uncinaria* sp.) were the most frequently detected (55.97%), followed by *Cystoisospora* sp. (31.91%), *Trichuris vulpis* (27.33%), *Toxocara canis* (21.27%), (%), *Capillaria* sp. (2.78%) and *Toxascaris leonina* (1.96%). Cases of single infestation were found in 217 (35.51%) of the tested dogs. Mixed infestations with two or more species of parasites were observed in 239 samples, representing 39.11% of the total samples analyzed. These results will be useful for establishing health care programs in dog shelters and for implementing effective strategies in controlling the intestinal parasites, in order to restrain the spread of zoonotic parasites and to raise awareness of their impact on public health.

**Key words:** shelter dogs, gastrointestinal parasites, prevalence

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