

EPIDEMIOLOGICAL RISK OF TOXOCAROSIS IN HUMANS AND ANIMALS IN IAȘI COUNTY

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Abstract

The increasing number of dogs is a determining factor in the occurrence of toxocarosis in humans, as they are the source of environmental contamination with *Toxocara sp.* eggs. During a single year, 2018-2019, the number of stray dogs increased from 0.068 to 0.0709 per capita. Contamination of dogs with *Toxocara canis* in the conditions of our country has increased in recent years from 21.4% to 50.2% and is identified as the most common parasitosis in these animals. For the study of *Toxocara spp.* infection in dogs, the period 2017-2020 was considered, representing cases present at the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Iasi. Thus, more than 75% of infections are recorded in young dogs under one year old, while 89% of them are males. The study on the prevalence of *Toxocara canis* cases at the Animal shelters in Tomești showed a prevalence of *Toxocara sp.* of 60% of the total samples analysed; the study on toxocarosis in humans was carried out during 2020, the information being provided by the Praxis medical tests laboratory. Result on the presence of specific IgG antibodies to *Toxocara canis/cati*. It included a group of 95 cases during one year, of which 3, namely 3.25% were under 3 years old and 14.8% were over 35 years old. Of the total samples, only 2 were positive in the male gender, which represents 2.1% of the total samples. Fifteen cases were positive in females, representing 15.8% of all samples analysed. Considering that we are talking about a parasite specific to dogs, the presence of such a large number of cases during a single year reveals a very high load of *Toxocara* eggs in the environment, which raises an alarm about the distribution of this parasite in nature and the high risk of human contamination.

Keys words: toxocarosis in humans, environmental contamination
