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THE PREVALENCE OF ENDOPARASITES IN STRAY CATS IN WESTERN ROMANIA

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The purpose of the work was to identify endoparasites in the stray cat population in western Romania. The zoonotic character of some endoparasites of stray cats is very important in the transmission of the disease to children, but also to adults. The areas studied were inhabited by many small children but also adults.

The 117 stray cats taken in the study were females and males aged between 2 months and 10 years old. Faeces were collected from the areas where they defecate and from the park sandboxes where children play. The Willis-flotation method and the Baermann method were used to identify the parasites.

The results from these coproscopic methods indicate an overall prevalence of endoparasites of 41.02% (48/117). The identified parasites are zoonotic. The highest prevalence was identified in *Toxocara* spp. of 56.25% (27/48) followed by *Ancylostoma* spp. and *Isospora* spp. 29.16% (27/48) and the lowest prevalence in *Dipylidium caninum* 8,33% (4/48). No *Aelurostrongylus* larvae were identified by the Baermann method. Mixed infections were found in five cats.

This study confirmed the presence of endoparasites in stray cat populations in western Romania. Some parasites are also zoonotic (*Toxocara* spp., *Ancylostoma spp.* and *Dipylidium caninum*), which means that the human population must be informed about this fact, and by regular deworming these endoparasites can be controlled. One measure to prevent contamination of sandboxes in parks is to cover them after they have been used by children.

Keywords: endoparasites, stray cats, zoonotic.