

PARASITES OF STRAY CATS IN BAGHDAD AREA

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SUMMARY

In a survey of 26 stray cats collected from different areas in Baghdad. Each cat examined for ectoparasites and gastrointestinal parasites. All cats examined were harbouring one or more species. The high rate of infection was found with Diplopylidium columbae and Physaloptera preputialis (82.6%).

External parasites recorded in this study were Rhipicephalus species and Ctenocephalus felis.

INTRODUCTION

The earliest report on helminths of cat in Iraq was by Machattie et al (1). Al-Dabagh et al (2) recorded Opisthorchis tenuicollis from cats & dogs in Baghdad and Basra provinces. Salman (3) examined 84 cats from Baghdad area and 84 cats from Kirkuk area. Morsy et al (4), also, examined 57 domestic cats in Cairo and found different species of helminth parasites.

The close association of man with his domestic animals (dogs and cats) lead to serious problems of public health like encephalitis and granulomatous lesions of the eye caused by toxocariasis, Woodruff et al (5). The aim of this study was to determine the prevalence of helminths and ectoparasites of stray cats in Baghdad areas.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Twenty-six stray cats were collected from different areas of Baghdad province. Skin of each cat was

examined in order to estimate the infestation of ectoparasites. After cats were sacrificed, the gastrointestinal tracts were opened, the stomach, small and large intestine contents were scraped, washed, then preserved in 10% formaline. The washed contents were examined and helminthes were collected for identification and counting by using dissecting microscope.

## RESULTS

Out of 26 cats examined for helminths infection, each cat was infected with at least one species of parasitic helminth. Table (1) shows the prevalence of nine helminths and two arthropodes species detected in cats examined. The most common cestode was Diplopylidium columbae with infection rate (82.6%), also P. preputialis recorded a high rate of infection (82.6%).

Prevalence of parasitic helminths were higher in female than male (Table 1).

In the present study, the ectoparasites found were Rhipicephalus spp. which was occurred in four cats (17.4%) examined, and Ctenocephalus felis occurred in one cat (4.3%).

Table 1: Prevalence of parasitic helminths in 26 stray cats from Baghdad area

Parasite	Female	Male	Total
<b>Helminths:</b>			
<u>Diplopylidium columbae</u>	10 (43.5)	9 (39.1)	19 (82.6)
<u>Physaloptera preputialis</u>	2 (52.2)	7 (30.4)	19 (82.6)
<u>Diplopylidium nollerii</u>	10 (43.5)	8 (34.8)	18 (78.3)
<u>Pneumonema</u>	5 (21.7)	5 (21.7)	10 (43.5)
<u>Taenia hydatigena</u>	3 (13.04)	7 (30.4)	10 (43.5)
<u>Joyeuxiella pasqualei</u>	3 (13.04)	3 (13.04)	6 (26.08)
<u>Dipylidium caninum</u>	4 (17.4)	1 (4.3)	5 (21.7)
<u>Toxocara cati</u>	2 (8.7)	1 (4.3)	3 (13.04)
<u>Diplopylidium acanthotetra</u>	1 (4.3)	1 (4.3)	2 (8.7)
<b>Arthropodes:</b>			
<u>Rhipicephalus</u>	2 (8.7)	2 (8.7)	4 (17.4)
<u>Ctenocephalus felis</u>	(0)	1 (4.3)	1 (4.3)

### DISCUSSION

In this study, 26 cats were examined for helminths and ectoparasites in Baghdad area.

All cats examined were found to be harbouring one or more parasites. Al-Saeed (6) found that 93.3% of 30 domestic cats in Mosul area were infected with one or more parasites, while Salman (3) found that 97.7% of 84 cats in Baghdad province and 70.2% of similar number of domestic cats in Kirkuk province infected with one or more species of helminths.

In this study, the prevalence of D. columbae was 82.6%, followed by Pneumonema (43.5%), T. hydatigena (43.5%), D. acanthotetra (8.7%), and tick Rhipicephalus (17.4%). Molan et al (7) did not recorded any of these parasites in Arbil area.

Dipylidium caninum found in five (21.7%) of the cats examined, and this result was different with that recorded by Salman (3) who reported 50.0% and 79.8% of cats examined from Kirkuk and Baghdad respectively, and also with Gurlap (8) in Turkey (47.0%).

The low rate of infection with D. caninum obtained in this study may be related to the lower infestation of cats with flea C. felis.

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### طفيليات القطن السائبة في منطقة بغداد

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### الخلاصة

تضمنت هذه الدراسة مسح لـ ٢٦ قطة سائبة جمعت من مناطق مختلفة في بغداد. فحصت جميع القطن بحثاً عن الطفيليات الخارجية والطفيليات الداخلية (ديدان القناة الهضمية).

أحتوت جميع القطن المفحوصة على طفيلي واحد أو أكثر، وكانت أعلى نسبة للخمج (82.6%) بطفيلي Diplopylidium columbae وطفيلي Physaloptera Preputialis.

سجل القراد من جنس Rhipicephalus والقمل من نوع Ctenocephalus felis كطفيليات خارجية.