Short communication

Changes in the prevalence of parasitic nematode infections in dogs from animal asylums in Warsaw and surroundings

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Abstract

The distribution of parasitic nematodes of dogs from three shelters for homeless animals in the Warsaw region (Celestynów and Milanówek near Warsaw, Paluch in Warsaw) was investigated. It was found that since our previous investigations (1993-1995) the prevalence of nematode infections had increased in Celestynów and Milanówek and decreased in the municipal shelter in Warsaw (Paluch). The highest percentage of infected animals was found in Celestynów (as in 1993-1995). What can be the importance of local environmental conditions for the prevalence of nematode infections.

Key words: Uncinaria stenocephala, animal shelters, nematode infections

Introduction

Animal shelters, as places of high concentration of dogs, are sites in which parasitic infection remains a serious health problem (Okulewicz et al. 1994). The prevalence of various parasitic nematodes in dogs from three animal shelters in the Warsaw area was investigated between 1993 and 1995 (Górski et al. 1996). The aim of the present study was to compare the previous results with the current situation in these shelters. For 11 years there have been epizootic changes in these asylums, mainly the increase of animal congestion, which could influence the prevalence of nematode infection and the species composition of the parasitic fauna.

Materials and Methods

The study, as in 1993-1995, involved dogs in the following shelters:

Celestynów near Warsaw is situated in forest, at a certain distance from the nearest buildings with over 1300 dogs (and around 300 cats). About 30% of the dogs in the shelter are kept loose, not individually confined.

Milanówk near Warsaw is a private animal asylum, in which, for many years, there has been about 200 dogs. In most cases these are old animals, kept in the asylum for the rest of their life. The rotation of animals in this shelter is low. All dogs are maintained in groups of 1-4 in locked boxes.