

# A STUDY ON PREVALENCE AND EFFECTS OF PARASITES OF DOGS PRESENTED TO VETERINARY FACILITIES IN NAIROBI, KENYA

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# INTRODUCTION

- In Kenya, dogs are important in many urban and rural households contributing as house guards in the majority of the cases and as pets animals
- Parasitic diseases in particular gastrointestinal helminthes and protozoans have been identified as a major impediment to dog health worldwide owing to the direct and indirect loses they cause (Smith, 1991)

# Introduction continued

- These includes blood loss, respiratory problems, skin conditions and even death.
- Another concern is the risk of transmission of zoonotic parasitic diseases e.g. Visceral larval migrans, Hydatodosis, Giardiosis & emerging diseases such as cryptosporidiosis.
- Studies on parasitic conditions of dogs in Kenya has been limited and very little of information is available.
- However, this information is very important in evaluating and recommending parasite control measures in canine health and welfare programs.
- Therefore this study attempts to find out the actual parasitic status in dogs in Nairobi.

# LITERATURE REVIEW

- **OCCURRENCE OF PARASITES**

## **Gastrointestinal parasites**

- Gastrointestinal parasites are worldwide problems and important cause of poor performance.
- Despite the widespread availability of highly efficacious antihelmintics, gastrointestinal parasites remain a common finding in dogs (Blagburn, 2001) especially in puppies.
  - \* Certain modes of transmission are exclusive for pups or neonates.
  - \* Low immunity
- Environmental contamination with the infective stages of these parasites is widespread, and the risk of reinfection of dogs is great
- Parasites in dogs are classified in to three groups; protozoans, arthropods and helminthes

# Literature review ctd

- Among the helminthes- nematodes, trematodes & cestodes.
- **Nematodes**- are the most common parasites of dogs esp (*Toxocara canis*) and hookworms (*Ancylostoma species*).
- **Trematodes**- icludes; *Paragonimus kellicoti*, *Alaria spp*, *Nanophyetus salmincola* and *Heterobilhazia americana*.

# Literature review ctd

- **Cestodes** – includes Cyclophyllidean cestodes (Taenia spp, Dipylidium caninum, Echnococcus spp) and Pseudophyllidean cestodes (*Diphilobothrium latum* Spirometra and Mesocestodes).
- **Protozoa**- includes; Isospora spp, Cryptosporidium spp, Giardia, and Neospora.

# Literature review ctd

- **Blood parasites** – The most common include *Erhlichia canis*, *Babesia canis*, Trypanosomes.
- (Helminths) *Dirofilaria* species , *Dipetalonema* species, Schistosomes,

## Ectoparasites

- Mainly in the phylum arthropoda- includes species of insects (class: insecta) and mites and ticks (Class: Arachnida; order Acarina).