SOIL-TRANSMITTED **HELMINTHES:** A TRIAD OF WORMS, ANIMALS, & **HUMANS**

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Introduction

BS Agriculture Kansas State University 1986

DVM Kansas State University 1989

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SCIENCE

Scientists Make a Gross Discovery After Examining the Body of Richard III Found Under a Parking Lot

Sep. 4, 2013 7:26am Associated Press



3, 2013. The remains of England's King Richard III which were found in a dig in Leicester England in Sept 2012. Not only was Richard III one of England s most reviled monarchs, but it now turns out the hunchback king was probably infected with parasitic worms that grew up to a foot in length. Credit: University of Leicester

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www.theblaze.com

"The bare mention of the question will make those of you with nosogeographical interests--or, better, helminthogeographical interests--warily scratch a mental ear and mull over a remark that ends 'where angels fear to tread.""

Norman R. Stoll, This Wormy World

Basic Definitions

- ZP—zoonotic parasitism
- Zoonosis—disease transmitted between humans & animals
- Parasitism—non-mutual symbiotic relationship
- Soil-transmitted helminthes (STH)—parasites whose infectious stages are found in contaminated soil



Zoonotic STH's—A Triad



"Parasitic infections affect millions around the world causing seizures, blindness, infertility, heart failure, and even death. They're more common in the US than people realize and yet there is so much we don't know about them. We need research to learn more about these infections and action to better prevent and treat them."

Tom Frieden, MD, MPH -Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Neglected Parasitic Infections in the United States

Monica E. Parise, MD May 6, 2014

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Neglected Parasitic Infections in the United States

Parasitic infections are a global public health problem and often affect the poorest people in low-income countries. However, US residents may also acquire parasitic infections in the United States, in their country of origin, or during international travel. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has prioritized 5 parasitic infections for public health action in the United States: Chagas disease, cysticercosis, toxocariasis, toxoplasmosis, and trichomoniasis. Referred to as the "neglected parasitic infections (NPIs) in the United States," these infections share common characteristics in that they affect large numbers of people and are often underrecognized, and preventive or curative interventions are often lacking.

Image from Dreamstime / CDC / Wikimedia Commons

www.cdc.gov

CATS
minths
Nematodes Toxocara cati Ancylostoma tubaeforme Ancylostoma braziliense
Cestodes Dipylidium caninum Echinococcus multilocularis
otozoa
Giardia duodenalis (intestinalis) Cryptosporidium felis Toxoplasma gondii

Table 1: Gastrointestinal Parasitic Infections in Dogs and Cats in North America That Are Transmissible to People Peter M. Schantz, VMD, PhD

Schantz, 2007.

NHANES III—1988-1994



Congdon and Lloyd, 2011.

NHANES III—1988-1994

Fig. 2 Estimated county infection rates (percents for females), United States, 1988–1994



NHANES III—1988-1994

Fig. 1 Estimated county infection rates (percents for males), United States, 1988–1994



Ascarids/Roundworms



Ascarids/Roundworms



 Exposure due to pets and pet-related hygiene behaviors







 Exposure due to wildlife and free-ranging dogs



Exposure due to contaminated food





- Exposure due to human factors
 - Immunosuppression
 - Poverty
 - Housing & sanitation
 - Low education
 - High soil exposure
 - Local food habits





www.centralmaine.com www.germanpulse.com

Children at Risk

 Pica: "the craving to eat nonfood items, such as dirt, paint chips, and clay."



 Soil-ingestion (geophagia): "the consumption of soil resulting from various behaviors, including, but not limited to, mouthing objects or dirty hands, eating dropped food, and intentionally consuming soil."

Ascarids/Roundworms



Despommier, 2003.

NEGLECTED PARASITIC INFECTION: TOXOCATIASIS



Each year in the United States at least **70 people are blinded** by the parasite that causes toxocariasis; most of them are children.



Learn more: www.cdc.gov/parasites/npi/

Ascarids/Roundworms

"Nonetheless, the substantial rates of *T. canis* infection in children that we and others have observed suggest that <u>unrecognized</u> childhood *T. canis* infections, if associated with adverse health or neuropsychological effects, may constitute an <u>important public health problem</u>."

Marmor, et al.

Ancylostamids/Hookworms









Ancylostama/Hookworms



Internship

- Lawrence-Douglas County Health
 Department (LDCHD) in Lawrence, Kansas
- Summer/Fall 2013
 - Are public spaces contaminated with dog feces?
 - Do pets have parasites?
- Surveys/fecal exams

Internship



Lawrence, Kansas Data





▼

Veterinary Information

Setting	Sample	<u>Parasites</u>	Туре
Farmer's Market	Dessicated/decomposing	n/a	
	d/d	n/a	
	d/d	n/a	



Setting	Sample	<u>Parasites</u>	Туре
Walnut	Dessicated/decomposing	n/a	
	d/d	n/a	
John Taylor	d/d	n/a	
	d/d	n/a	
	d/d	n/a	
Brook Creek	d/d	n/a	
	d/d	n/a	

Setting	Dog	<u>Sex</u>	Age (Yrs)	Parasites	Туре
Senior	Cookie	F	1-5	Y	3+ Ancylostoma, 3+ Eimeria
	Hera	FS	>10	Ν	
	Jill	FS	6-10	Ν	
	Millie	FS	6-10	Ν	
	Bailey	FS	1-5	Ν	
	Bella	FS	1-5	Ν	
Childcare	Sheridan	FS	1-5	Ν	
	Hagan	FS	1-5	Ν	
	Bella	FS	1-5	Ν	
LDCHD	Lucy	FS	6-10	Ν	
	Zoey	FS	1-5	Ν	
	Zoey	FS	6-10	Ν	
	Frieda	FS	6-10	Y	1+ Paragonimus

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Naismith Valley Park	Fresh	Ν	
	Fresh	Ν	
	Fresh	N	
	Fresh	Y	
		·	
	Fresh	Y	4+ Toxocara, 2+ Trichuris, 2+ Ancylostoma
Riverfront	Dessicated/decomposing	N	
	Fresh	Ν	
	Fresh	Ν	
	Fresh	Y	1+ Toxocara

All parks were contaminated

 Dog owners less likely to clean up pet stool in "nature parks"

 "Nature parks" do not have posted rules or pick-up stations like dog parks



Setting	Dog	<u>Sex</u>	Age (Yrs)	Parasites	Туре
Doggy Daycare	Pablo			Ν	
	Molly			Ν	
	Zoey			Y	1+ Toxocara
	Kirby	MN	1-5	Ν	
	Luna			Ν	
	Reba			Ν	
	Annabelle			Ν	
	Рорру			Ν	
	Gracie			Ν	
	Salvador			Ν	
	Phin			Ν	
	Gus			Ν	
	Bonnie			Ν	
	Minnie	FS	1-5	Ν	
	Rico			Ν	
	Mookie			Ν	
	Digby			Ν	

Setting	Dog	<u>Sex</u>	Age (Yrs)	<u>Parasites</u>	Type
MuttRun	Buster	MN	>10	Ν	
	Alfie			Ν	
	Marco Polo			Ν	
	Lana			Ν	
	Tucker			Ν	
	Donner	MN	>10	Ν	
	Echo			Y	2+ Ancylostoma
	Stella	FS	1-5	Ν	
	Buddha			Ν	
	Charlie			Ν	
	Rook			Ν	
	Lola	FS	<1	Ν	
	Sophie			Ν	
	Katie			Ν	
	Socrates	MN	1-5	Ν	
	Abby			Y	1+ Isospora
	Tashama			Ν	
	Marley	FS	1-5	Ν	
	Baxter	MN	1-5	Ν	
	Captain			Ν	
	Gracie			Ν	
	Sam			Ν	
	Bella			Ν	
	Beatrice			N	

Routine veterinary care 🕂 Routine heartworm preventative





It's not rocket science!
Interviews with Veterinarians

Facility	<u>Year</u>	<u># Tests</u>	<u># Positive for parasites</u>	Format
Animal Hospital of Lawrence	2012	616	39+ for rounds/hooks/or both	book
Bradley Animal Hospital			estimate 10-15%	book
Clinton Parkway Animal HospitalNR				
Gentle Care Animal Hospital			estimate 10-15%	computer*
Lawrence Veterinary HospitalNR				
Lewis Veterinary Clinic				individual records
Wakarusa Veterinary Hospital	2008	1179	119	spreadsheet*
	2009	1172	125	
	2010	1167	121	
	2011	1192	116	
	2012	1194	120	

* Computerized records of results of individual tests not readily accessible.

NR--no response

Interviews with Veterinarians

- Roundworms/Hookworms/Both: 6-15%
- Recordkeeping
 - Written
 - Computerized
 - Hard to access data





Lawrence-Douglas County KS Canine Fecal Study

Q12 Are you aware that some parasites will infect humans as well as dogs?

Answered: 35 Skipped: 0



Lawrence-Douglas County KS Canine Fecal Study

Q13 How concerned are you that you or your family may be infected by parasites from your dog?

Answered: 35 Skipped: 0



Lawrence-Douglas County KS Canine Fecal Study

Q5 Do you wash your hands after contact with your pet?

Answered: 35 Skipped: 0



Lawrence-Douglas County KS Canine Fecal Study

Q7 How often does your dog sleep in your bed (or a family member's)?

Answered: 34 Skipped: 1



Lawrence-Douglas County KS Canine Fecal Study

Q8 How often do you scoop your dog's feces in your yard?

Answered: 35 Skipped: 0



Lawrence-Douglas County KS Canine Fecal Study

Q17 How often do you give heartworm preventive medication to your dog?

Answered: 35 Skipped: 0



Barriers to Addressing ZP

"I was thinking of installing one of those automatic garage door openers over the weekend. The directions say 'make certain the garage door is square and straight and the garage floor is level.' Directions always read like that. Is everything in your [house] straight, square and level? If my house was straight, square and level, I would never have to fix anything. What we all need are directions that tell us what to do when everything is crooked, off-center and all screwed up."

Andy Rooney

"Wicked Problems"

- "Wicked Problem"—a term coined by urban planners at UC-Berkley in 1973
- Are complex => difficult to define clearly
- Are constantly changing
- Have multi-causal natures
- Lead to conflicting goals
- Involve social & individual behaviors

Misconceptions about STH's

- Worms are not present if you do not see them (?!)
- ZP is only a problem in tropical climates
- Easily-controlled means

well-controlled



Lack of Awareness

- Human healthcare providers:
 - Many do not ask about pet ownership—78-90%
 - May not make understanding zoonotic diseases a priority in practice
 - May not live in same community as patients
 - May not understand culture of their patients

Lack of Quantitative Facts

- Collecting information
 - Different agencies for animals & humans
 - Different testing methods
 - Rare (?) diseases do not get priority
 - Different communities get different priorities
- Understanding information
 - Common metrics may not be useful *
 - Confounding factors **

* Payne, Turner and Morgan, 2009.** Torgerson and Macpherson, 2011.

Diverse Views

- Is ZP relevant?
 - NHANES III showed 13.9% Toxocara seroprevalence *
 - Health, social & economic effects
 - Biases lead to under-reporting ***
- Different goals:
 - Human healthcare
 - Veterinary profession
 - Agricultural authorities

* Hotez and Wilkins, 2009.

** Torgerson and Macpherson, 2011.*** Hotez et al. 2008.



People and pets

Summary points

Over 90% of pet owners regard their pet as a valued family member

Reluctance to part with a pet may lead to non-compliance with health advice

Pets may be of particular value to older people and patients recovering from major illness

The death of a pet may cause great distress to owners, especially when the pet has associations with a deceased spouse or former lifestyle

Many people would welcome advice and support to enable them to reconcile or manage pet ownership and health problems whenever possible

McNicholas, et al. 2005.

ZP is a "Wicked Problem"

- Paradox of disease control
 - Successful interventions => decreased attention
 - Parasitism receives <1% of global research funding
- Changing environments
 - Climate
 - Urban wildlife
- Priority given to unrelated (?) issues
 - Chronic diseases vs. infectious diseases
 - Social issues
 - Government policies

ZP is a "Wicked Problem"

Neglected Zoonotic Diseases? Or

"Diseases of Neglected Populations?"

Doble and Fevre, 2010.

Neglected Parasitic Infections in the United States

Monica E. Parise, MD May 6, 2014





NPIs: Key Gaps in Prevention and Control

Additional work is needed in 3 major areas to advance prevention and control of NPIs in the United States: (1) better estimates of disease burden and a better understanding of how to reduce the risk of acquiring NPIs, (2) improved diagnostic tests and medications, and (3) expansion of programs that provide proven interventions.^[1]

Image courtesy of CDC Foundation / David Snyder

www.cdc.gov

The Solution...

A Multidisciplinary Approach

"Between animal and human medicine there is no dividing line—nor should there be. The object is different but the experience obtained constitutes the basis of all medicine."

Rudolph Virchow

"Two tenets at the core of the One Health concept are the belief that human and animal health are irrevocably entwined and that the improvement of both requires close collaboration between the medical and veterinary professions with support from allied disciplines."

Doble and Fevre, 2010.





DATA COLLECTIONEDUCATION

Courtesy of eyeflow.com

- Veterinarians
 - Promote pet's health
 - Focus on preventive care
 - Provide client education
- Human healthcare
 - Add zoonotic diseases as Rule/Out's
 - Promote sanitary habits
 - Understand family dynamics (including pets)



- Academia
 - Educate new parasitologists
 - Focus on research
 - Serve as a resource
- Animal Industry
 - Promote food safety
 - Invest in new technology/treatments



- Public Health Community
 - Keep accurate statistics
 - Lobby to increase priority
 - Create resource for knowledge & cooperation
 - Reach out to marginalized populations
- Local government
 - Provide safe environments
 - Enact legislation









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Risk Analysis Framework





People:

- Surveillance
- Treatment
- Education
- Sanitation



- Routine fecal analysis
- Chemoprophylaxis
- Surveillance











Legislation

Public services



Medical Ecology—manipulating the environment

- Special surfaces
- Barriers
- Long grass
- Controlling feeding stations
- Feces disposal







KSU DMP806, 2012.


nationalpostnews.files.wordpress.com

"Helminthiases do not have the journalistic value of great pandemics like flu or plague, although they may have an as yet unrecognized relation to them; they do not, for the most part, present dramatic clinical cases, but to make up for their lack of drama, they are unremittingly corrosive."

Norman Stoll

Public Health Education

- University--all healthcare fields
- School children
- Families
- Doctors and patients

• Messages for Individuals





Public

• Messages for Individuals



FACEBOOK.COM/OFF THE LEASH DAILY DOG CARTOONS

Messages for Communities



By Deb Glaum | Community Health Intern and veterinarian

Oct. 25, 2013 — Lawrence is a wonderful community for dogs and dog lovers. There are so many places that owners and their canine companions can enjoy in and around the city. Besides spending time at the off-leash dog parks, many people like to take their pet wherever they go in public, and in many places, the dogs are welcome. However, it's inevitable – if you're going to have dogs

Messages Globally









The Solution— A Multidisciplinary Approach

"Ours is the age of the specialist, and long gone is the day of the educated amateur, the person of letters who could paint, write, and serve in elected office, who could lead in battle and yet publish in science and compose sonnets. The vapid dating line, 'What's your sign?' has given way to the even more insulting, because it is so limiting, 'What's your major?'"

Steve Perkins

Closing Thoughts

Be:

- Sensible
- Safe
- Aware

Questions???



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