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ROLE OF FOXES *(VULPES VULPES L.)* IN THE EPIDEMIOLOGY OF ZOONOTIC HELMINTHS IN URBAN ENVIRONMENT CONDITION-BELGRADE EXPERIENCE

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The red foxes (*Vulpes vulpes L.*) are the widely distributed canids which occur in various ecosystems. Large number of foxes lives in the vicinity of numerous cities worldwide. Habiting in nearest surroundance of urban areas, foxes have done permanent contact with largest population of urban animals: stray and pet dogs. Both population of animal (foxes and dogs) belong of Canida family and have the same parasitic fauna. Foxes present natural carriers of many nematoda species important for health of dogs and people. Its permanent contact with stray dogs and indirectly with pet dogs induces permanent circulation of those parasitic species and presents its role in epidemiology of parasitic zoonoses. In our paper, we presented results obtained during continuous examination of fox's parasites fauna in Belgrade area of period 2012-2017. At laboratory of parasitology of Veterinary institute in Belgrade, we examined total of 341 foxes hunted at spread area of Belgrade. After necropsy, we have examined trachea, lung, heart, complete gastrointestinal tract, liver, kidney and urinary bladder. Found parasites, recovered by fixing in 10% formalin, were mounted in lactofenol for identification, and mounted in Canada balsam, determined the morphological characteristics. During our examination most important zoonotic helminth species which were found at foxes are: *Toxocara canis, Toxascaris leonina, Ancylostoma caninum, Uncinaria stenocephala, Trichuris vulpis, Mesocestoides lineatus, Dipyllidium caninum and Multiceps multiceps*. Comparing these results with the results of examination of stray dogs, we concluded that many helminth species were found in both populations. This is of great epidemiological significance in terms of expansion of helminthoses, because of possible urban environment contamination and subsequent human infection.

Biography

Ivan Pavlovic, PhD, MVSc, DVM is an academician graduated and completed PhD at Faculty of Veterinary Medicine in Belgrade. He is Head of Laboratory of Parasitology in Scientific Veterinary Institute of Serbia. He is on the EFSA, WHO and FAO experts list and are the holder of several international and national awards and recognitions. He has published three university books, 18 books, four atlas, one handbook, more than 300 papers in scientific journal and more than 500 papers at symposium and conferences and was author of Methods of Examination of Soil and Sand to presence of Parasites Eggs (Republic of Serbia, The Intellectual Property Office, certificate 999 no.2770/2017A-0098/2017). He was Member of WVA, WSPA, WVPA, ISID, WFP, IPVS etc. He participated in numerous international and national scientific projects.

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