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ISTRAŽIVANJE ZOONOTIČNIH ENDOPARAZITA PASA NA
PODRUČJU OPĆINE BUGOJNO

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**INVESTIGATION OF ZOONOTIC ENDOPARASITES IN DOGS IN
THE MUNICIPALITY OF BUGOJNO**

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SAŽETAK

Istraživanje je provedeno s ciljem utvrđivanja prisutnosti i učestalosti zoonotičnih endoparazita kod pasa na području općine Bugojno, kao i procjene njihovog veterinarskog i javnozdravstvenog značaja. Istraživanjem je obuhvaćeno ukupno 255 pasa, od kojih 55 vlasničkih i 200 pasa bez vlasnika smještenih u Prihvatilištu za životinje „Koprivnica“. Psi su bili različite dobi i spola, a istraživanje je provedeno u periodu od januara 2024. do maja 2025. godine.

Za utvrđivanje prisutnosti endoparazita korištene su koprološke, hematološke/mikroskopske i serološke dijagnostičke metode, uključujući flotacionu metodu, direktnu imunofluorescenciju, metodu po Bermanu, bojenje po Giemsi i odgovarajuće serološke testove. Identifikacija parazita izvršena je na osnovu njihovih morfoloških karakteristika i rezultata primijenjenih dijagnostičkih metoda.

Od ukupno pregledanih pasa, 196 (76,9%) bilo je pozitivno na najmanje jednu vrstu parazita, a utvrđeno je ukupno 19 parazitskih taksona. Među češće ustanovljenim nalazima bili su *Giardia duodenalis*, *Toxocara canis*, *Uncinaria stenocephala*, *Ancylostoma caninum*, predstavnici porodice Taeniidae, *Trichuris vulpis* i *Cryptosporidium* spp. Rezultati su pokazali izraženije parazitološko opterećenje kod pasa bez vlasnika u odnosu na vlasničke pse. Utvrđena prisutnost zoonotičnih parazita ukazuje na mogućnost kontaminacije okoliša i potencijalni rizik za zdravlje ljudi, posebno u sredinama u kojima psi i ljudi dijele javne površine.

Dobijeni rezultati ukazuju na potrebu kontinuiranog epidemiološkog nadzora, redovne dehelmintizacije, odgovornog vlasništva, provođenja higijenskih mjera i unapređenja kontrole populacije pasa bez vlasnika. Poseban značaj ima saradnja veterinarske službe, lokalne zajednice i javnog zdravstva u skladu s principima pristupa „One Health“.

SUMMARY

The study was conducted with the aim of determining the presence and occurrence of zoonotic endoparasites in dogs in the municipality of Bugojno, as well as assessing their veterinary and public health significance. A total of 255 dogs were included in the study, comprising 55 owned dogs and 200 stray dogs housed at the “Koprivnica” Animal Shelter. The dogs were of different ages and sexes, and the study was conducted from January 2024 to May 2025.

To determine the presence of endoparasites, coprological, haematological/microscopic and serological diagnostic methods were used, including the flotation method, direct immunofluorescence, the Baermann method, Giemsa staining and appropriate serological tests. Parasites were identified based on their morphological characteristics and the results obtained using the applied diagnostic methods.

Of the total number of examined dogs, 196 (76.9%) were positive for at least one parasite species, and a total of 19 parasitic taxa were identified. The more frequently detected parasites included *Giardia duodenalis*, *Toxocara canis*, *Uncinaria stenocephala*, *Ancylostoma caninum*, representatives of the family Taeniidae, *Trichuris vulpis* and *Cryptosporidium* spp. The results showed a higher parasitic burden among stray dogs compared with owned dogs. The presence of zoonotic parasites indicates the possibility of environmental contamination and a potential risk to human health, particularly in areas where dogs and humans share public spaces.

The obtained results indicate the need for continuous epidemiological surveillance, regular deworming, responsible dog ownership, implementation of appropriate hygiene measures and improved control of the stray dog population. Cooperation between veterinary services, local authorities and public health institutions is of particular importance in accordance with the principles of the One Health approach.