

Prevalence of *Echinococcus granulosus* Infection in Stray Dogs and Herbivores in Shiraz, Iran

Mehrabani, D.,*Oryan, A. and Sadjjadi, S.M.

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Hydatidosis is one of the major infections zoonotic diseases in Iran, where sheep and goats are still slaughtered traditionally and carcass wastes are easily accessible to scavenging dogs and other wild carnivores. The Assyrian shepherd dogs are generally easily infected with this parasite and are the major source of echinococcosis of herbivorous animals and man in the Fars province. One hundred and five stray male and female dogs in different age groups were autopsied and their small intestines examined for *Echinococcus granulosus*. Thirty-eight dogs (36.19%) harbored two-to-several thousand *E. granulosus* in their intestinal content. The prevalence rate was higher in males (44.83%) than in female (25.53%).

Livers and lungs of 3245 sheep, 2576 goats, 756 cattle and 25 buffaloes slaughtered for meat purposes at different Shiraz slaughterhouses were examined for hydatidosis: 2.09% of livers and 2.68% of lungs of sheep, 2.17% and 2.36% of goats, 4.49% and 6.48% of cattle and 4% and 8% of buffaloes, respectively, were infected.

*Author for correspondence. Razi Vaccine & Serum Research Institute, Shiraz branch, Shiraz, Iran