

INTRODUCTION AND OBJECTIVES

Cats are definitive hosts of a large number of intestinal parasites, whether helminths or protozoa. Some of these can cause important zoonoses (such as *visceral* or *cutaneous larva migrans*, toxoplasmosis or giardiasis). Since feline colonies are not subject to regular deworming treatment and have unrestricted access into public areas, they can have an impact on public health. **The aim of this study** is to know better which parasitosis affect these groups, as well as focus on control measures to reduce prevalences and the risk of transmission.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Fresh stool samples from feline colonies with municipal management + Deworming protocol asked

COPROLOGICAL ANALYSIS

- **Macroscopic examination** and evaluation of the consistency based on *Nestlé Purina Fecal Scoring System®*
- **Microscopic examination** with 33% ZnSO₄ centrifugal-flotation technique
- **Additional techniques:** FASTest® Crypto-GiardiaStrip, stool culture and Baermann technique.

RESULTS

- 39 samples were collected from 6 feline colonies from the metropolitan area of Barcelona.
- Deworming was tried in 5/6 colonies by diluting tablets in the group water or by administering individually with food in social cats.
- **The overall positivity was 41%.** Five different parasites were detected. The most frequent, *Toxocara cati* and *Ancylostoma spp.*, were the only ones with zoonotic potential.
- Most stools were soft or very soft.

Table 1. Positivity based on faecal consistency

Faecal consistency	Positive samples	Negative samples
Hard-Normal (n=3)	1	2
Soft (n=21)	8	13
Very soft (n=10)	4	6

Table 2. Positivity of intestinal parasite infections

Endoparasite	Positive samples (n=16)	Positivity (%)
<i>Toxocara cati</i>	11	28,2
<i>Ancylostoma spp.</i>	9	23,1
<i>Aelurostrongylus abstrusus</i>	5	12,8
<i>Joyeuxiella pasqualei</i>	3	7,7
<i>Cystoisospora rivolta</i>	2	5,1

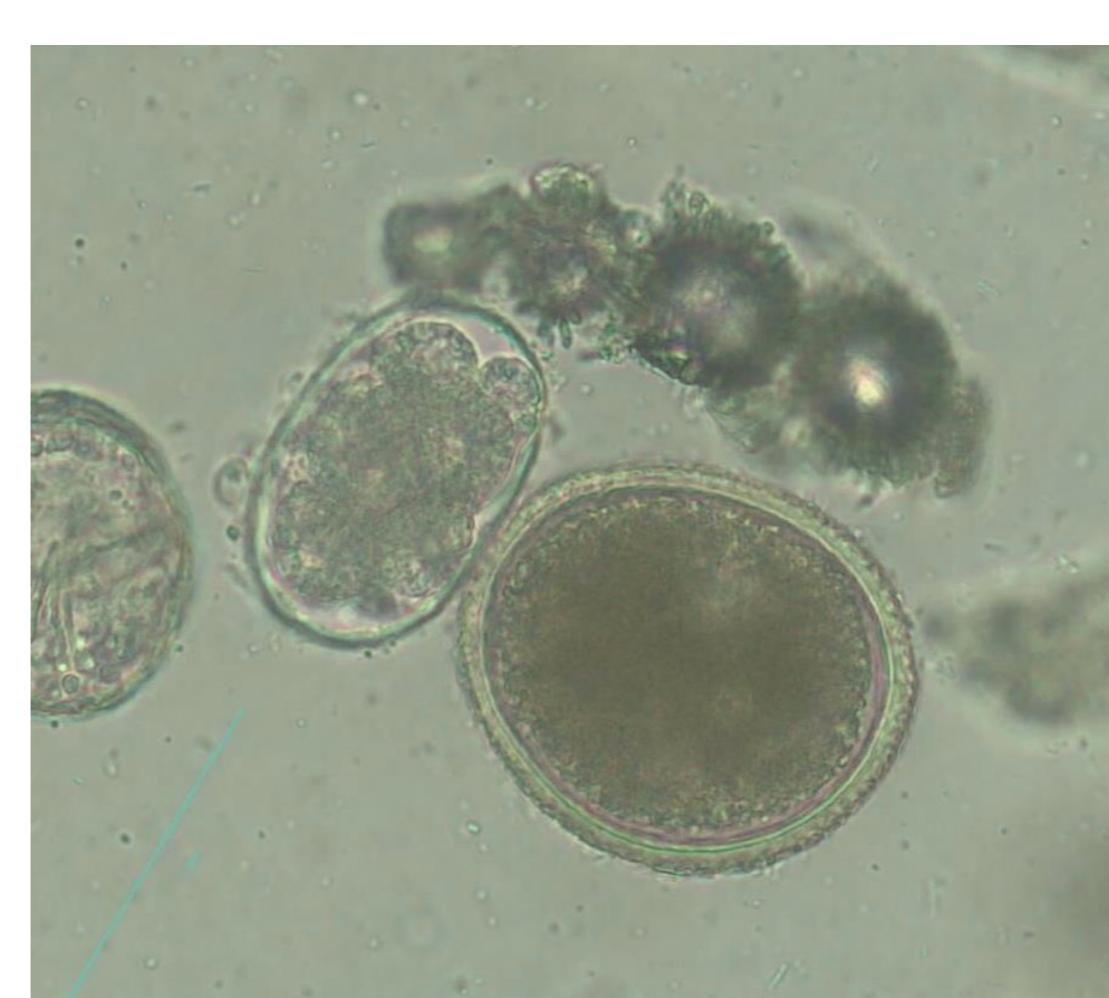


Figure 1. *Ancylostoma spp.* (left) and *Toxocara cati* (right) egg



Figure 2. L1 of *Aelurostrongylus abstrusus*

CONCLUSIONS

Deworming must be performed individually to avoid infradosification, resistances and economic waste. Also, it should be based on a coprological analysis.

Since it is difficult, we must focus on alternative control measures:

- Regulation and **management** of the feline colonies by **the city council**
- Maintaining **TNR** (trap, neuter and return) **program** to control population growth (at least 55% of the group).

- **Control of environmental pollution** of transmission forms (eggs, oocysts, larvae) through daily collection of feces, increasing cat litter boxes
- Trying to **reduce the predation of paratenic and / or intermediate hosts** by ensuring the feeding of the cats and, if necessary, pest control.

For these, it is important to have **economic resources** and the **collaboration** between the administration, veterinarians and volunteers.