

Prevalence of Intestinal Parasites in dogs found around Bell County, Kentucky

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Introduction

*Many prevalence studies have been done around the world in a vast array of regions and countries, however only limited amounts have been done in the United States, let alone near the Appalachian region.

*With this study, the aim is to find which intestinal parasites are most dominantly found in dogs from the region as well as to deduce if climate changes have any sort of impact on these results.

*Studies and results like this do exist but do not account for the lack of recording/submitting this information to organizations such as to the CAPC (Companion Animal Parasite Council).



Methods

Because this research has a set parameter of being “in or around” Bell County, the best place to do the actual experiment would be in this area at the local clinic, Bell County Animal Clinic. After getting permission to begin this study from the Veterinarians and staff at Bell County Animal Clinic, data collection will begin. The area of this research could be expanded to include surrounding clinics; however, the best results would come from one singular clinic. This research would need to be over the course of around 6 months for accurate reporting on the parasites and take into consideration changing weather patterns. Once the staff would test fecal samples, they would then take a separate note on the type of parasite found, not collecting names of patients or clients alike, remaining fully anonymous. A tally system would be the simplest method of data collection and help keep anonymity of clients, tallies would be placed into separate columns of species of intestinal parasites. After a 6-month period of consistent research and recording findings from fecal tests, all data would be pulled together to show the most prevalent intestinal parasite in the Bell County area.

Goals and Conclusions

This research will help to educate pet owners and clients in the area on just how common intestinal parasites can be in dogs. This will allow owners to be more proactive in their pet’s health and safety for the better and allow proper treatment for parasites as needed,

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