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ARTICLES



THE USE OF TOUCH DNA ANALYSIS IN FORENSIC IDENTIFICATION FOCUSING ON SHORT TANDEM REPEAT-COMBINED DNA INDEX SYSTEM LOCI THO1, CSF1PO AND TPOX

Ahmad Yudianto, Indah Nuraini M., Abdul Hadi Furqoni, Simon Martin Manyanza Nzilibili, Pudji Harjanto

 <https://doi.org/10.4081/idr.2020.8716>

 PDF



REGULATION OF MITOGEN-ACTIVATED PROTEIN KINASE SIGNALING PATHWAY AND PROINFLAMMATORY CYTOKINES BY URSOLIC ACID IN MURINE MACROPHAGES INFECTED

INSBIOMM

WITH *MYCOBACTERIUM AVIUM*

Dian Ayu Eka Pitaloka, Andrea M. Cooper, Aluicia Anita Artarini, Elin Yulinah Sukandar, Sophi Damayanti

 <https://doi.org/10.4081/idr.2020.8717> PDF

PROFILE OF CONGENITAL RUBELLA SYNDROME IN SOETOMO GENERAL HOSPITAL SURABAYA, INDONESIA

Nyilo Purnami, Dionisia Vidya Paramita

 <https://doi.org/10.4081/idr.2020.8718> PDF

ADDED VALUE OF BLEACH FOR TUBERCULOSIS MICROSCOPY DIAGNOSTIC IN LIMITED RESOURCES SETTING

Erike A. Suwarsono, Siti Nur Aisyah Jauharoh

 <https://doi.org/10.4081/idr.2020.8719> PDF

THE MECHANISM OF THE EFFECTS OF MONASCUS JMBA RICE ON INCREASED PLATELET COUNT IN WISTAR RATS INFECTED WITH DENGUE VIRUS SEROTYPE 3

Erwin Astha Triyono

 <https://doi.org/10.4081/idr.2020.8720> PDFALPHA-TOCOPHEROL IMPROVES SPERM QUALITY BY REGULATE INTRACELLULAR CA²⁺ INTENSITY (INFLUX/EFFLUX) OF SIMMENTAL BULL CATTLE SPERM

Hermin Ratnani, Suprayogi TW, Sardjito T, Susilowati S, Azura S

 <https://doi.org/10.4081/idr.2020.8721> PDFTHE FORMING OF BACTERIA BIOFILM FROM *STREPTOCOCCUS MUTANS* AND *AGGREGATIBACTER ACTINOMYCETEMCOMITANS* AS A MARKER FOR EARLY DETECTION IN DENTAL CARIES AND PERIODONTITIS

Indah Listiana Kriswandini, Diyatri I, Tantiana, Nuraini P, Berniyanti T, Putri IA

 <https://doi.org/10.4081/idr.2020.8722>

 **PDF**



THE PRACTICE OF COMPLEMENTARY FEEDING AMONG STUNTED CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF TWO

Inne Soesanti, Pinky Saptandari, Sri Adiningsih, M. Bagus Qomaruddin

 <https://doi.org/10.4081/idr.2020.8723>

 **PDF**



A CASE OF DEEP VEIN THROMBOSIS ASSOCIATED WITH METHICILLIN SENSITIVE *STAPHYLOCOCCAL AUREUS* GENU SEPTIC ARTHRITIS

Lyndia Effendy, Metta Octora, Deby Kusumaningrum

 <https://doi.org/10.4081/idr.2020.8725>

 **PDF**



EXPRESSION OF FIBROBLAST CELLS AFTER EXTRACTION OF WISTAR RAT TEETH AFTER TOPICAL APPLICATION OF OKRA FRUIT (*ABELMOSCHUS ESCULENTUS*) GEL

Muhammad Luthfi, Wisnu Setyari Juliastuti, Yuniar Aliyah Risky, Elvina Hasna Wijayanti, Aisyah Ekasari Rachmawati, Nidya Pramesti Olifia Asyhari

 <https://doi.org/10.4081/idr.2020.8726>

 **PDF**



THE SPATIAL ANALYSIS OF EXTRAPULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS SPREADING AND ITS INTERACTIONS WITH PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS IN SAMARINDA, EAST KALIMANTAN, INDONESIA

Nataniel Tandirogang, Wirdah Ulfahaini Mappalotteng, Eko Nugroho Raharjo, Swandari Paramitai, Dewi Embong Bulan, Yadi Yasir

 <https://doi.org/10.4081/idr.2020.8727>

 **PDF**



ANALYSIS OF TUBERCULOSIS PROGRAM MANAGEMENT IN PRIMARY HEALTH CARE

Ni Njoman Juliasih, Soedarsono, Reny Mareta Sari

 <https://doi.org/10.4081/idr.2020.8728>

 **PDF**

IN VITRO ANTI-HIV ACTIVITY OF ETHANOL EXTRACT FROM GANDARUSA (*JUSTICIA GENDARUSSA* BURM. F) LEAVES

Ni Putu Ermi Hikmawanti, Prihartini Widiyanti, Bambang Prajogo EW

 <https://doi.org/10.4081/idr.2020.8730>

 **PDF**

PERFORMANCE COMPARISON OF TWO MALARIA RAPID DIAGNOSTIC TEST WITH REAL TIME POLYMERASE CHAIN REACTION AND GOLD STANDARD OF MICROSCOPY DETECTION METHOD

Puspa Wardhani, Trieva Verawaty Butarbutar, Christophorus Oetama Adiatmaja, Amarensi Milka Betaubun, Nur Hamidah, Aryati

 <https://doi.org/10.4081/idr.2020.8731>

 **PDF**

GENE EXPRESSION TRYPTOPHAN ASPARTATE COAT PROTEIN IN DETERMINING LATENT TUBERCULOSIS INFECTION USING IMMUNOCYTOCHEMISTRY AND REAL TIME POLIMERASE CHAIN REACTION

Rebekah J. Setiabudi, Ni Made Mertaniasih, Muhammad Amin, Wayan Tunas Artama

 <https://doi.org/10.4081/idr.2020.8733>

 **PDF**

THE EFFICACY OF PHOTODYNAMIC INACTIVATION WITH LASER DIODE ON *STAPHYLOCOCCUS AUREUS* BIOFILM WITH VARIOUS AGES OF BIOFILM

Suryani Dyah Astuti, Hafidiana, Riries Rulaningtyas, Abdurachman, Alfian P Putra, Samian, Deny Arifianto

 <https://doi.org/10.4081/idr.2020.8736>

 **PDF**

TRANSFORMATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES AND THE INDONESIAN NATIONAL MILITARY HEALTH RESEARCH COLLABORATION IN SUPPORTING NATIONAL HEALTH SECURITY

Soroy Lardo

 <https://doi.org/10.4081/idr.2020.8763>

 PDF

ANALYSIS OF SERUM GLUTAMIC PYRUVIC TRANSAMINASE AND SERUM GLUTAMIC OXALOACETIC TRANSAMINASE LEVELS IN TUBERCULOSIS PATIENTS WHO ARE UNDERGOING OAT TREATMENT IN KENDARI CITY GENERAL HOSPITAL, KOTA KENDARI, INDONESIA

Sri Anggarini Rasyid, Armayani, Yuniati, Tiara Mayang Pratiwi Lio

 <https://doi.org/10.4081/idr.2020.8737>

 PDF

AVIATION MEDICINE CAPACITY ON FACING BIOLOGICAL THREAT IN INDONESIA AIRPORTS

Yuli Subiakto

 <https://doi.org/10.4081/idr.2020.8738>

 PDF

DETECTION OF HUMAN IMMUNODEFICIENCY VIRUS TYPE 1 TRANSMITTED DRUG RESISTANCE AMONG TREATMENT-NAIVE INDIVIDUALS RESIDING IN JAKARTA, INDONESIA

Siti Qamariyah Khairunisa, Ni Luh Ayu Megasari, Retno Pudji Rahayu, Adiana Mutamsari Witaningrum, Shuhei Ueda, Muhammad Qushai Yunifiar M, Dwi Wahyu Indriati, Tomohiro Kotaki, Adria Rusli, Nasronudin, Masanori Kameoka

 <https://doi.org/10.4081/idr.2020.8740>

 PDF

HYPERBARIC OXYGEN IN ANIMAL MODEL OF RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS: ANALYSIS OF HIF-1A, ACPA AND IL-17A

Titut Harnanik, Sapta Prihartono, Tedy Juliandhy

 <https://doi.org/10.4081/idr.2020.8766>

 PDF

INHIBITION OF DENGUE VIRUS SEROTYPE 2 IN VERO CELLS WITH [CU(2,4,5-TRIPHENYL-1H-IMIDAZOLE)2(H2O)2].CL2

Teguh H. Sucipto, Fahimah Martak

 <https://doi.org/10.4081/idr.2020.8744>

 PDF

MOLECULAR DETECTION OF A NEW PATHOTYPE ENTEROAGGREGATIVE HAEMORRHAGIC *ESCHERICHIA COLI* (EAHEC) IN INDONESIA, 2015

Wahyu Setyarini, Dadik Raharjo, Radita Yuniar Arizandy, Zakaria Pamoengkas, Subijanto Marto Sudarmo, Alpha Fardah Athiyah, Toshiro Shirakawa

 <https://doi.org/10.4081/idr.2020.8745>

 PDF

HUMAN HERPES VIRUS 8 ANTIBODIES IN HIV-POSITIVE PATIENTS IN SURABAYA, INDONESIA

Devi Oktafiani, Ni Luh Ayu Megasari, Elsa Fitriana, Nasronudin, Maria Inge Lusida, Soetjipto

 <https://doi.org/10.4081/idr.2020.8746>

 PDF

ZOONOTIC AND OTHER GASTROINTESTINAL PARASITES IN CATS IN LUMAJANG, EAST JAVA, INDONESIA

Izzu Ar-Rifqi Rabbani, Fairuz Jihan Mareta, Kusnoto, Poedji Hastutiek, Nunuk Dyah Retno Lastuti, Mufasirin, Suharsono, I Komang Wiarsa Sardjana, Moh. Sukmanadi, Lucia Tri Suwanti

 <https://doi.org/10.4081/idr.2020.8747>

 PDF

LEPROSY TRANSMISSION IN ENDEMIC AND NON-ENDEMIC AREAS BASED ON THE PROFILE OF ANTIBODY RESPONSE OF PGL-1 AND PCR DETECTION OF *MYCOBACTERIUM LEPRAE* DNA FROM NASAL SWAB AMONG HEALTHY CHILDREN OF EAST JAVA, INDONESIA

Dinar Adriaty, Cita Rosita SP, Iswahyudi, Ratna Wahyuni, Indropo Agusni, Shinzo Izumi

 <https://doi.org/10.4081/idr.2020.8748>

 PDF

ANALYSIS OF LYMPHOCYTE T(CD4+) CELLS EXPRESSION ON SEVERE EARLY CHILDHOOD CARIES AND FREE CARIES

Muhammad Luthfi, Priyawan Rachmadi, Aqsa Sjuhada Oki, Retno Indrawati, Agung Sosiawan, Muhaimin Rifa'i

 <https://doi.org/10.4081/idr.2020.8760>

 **PDF****STUDY OF POSSIBILITY PHYSICAL INTERACTIONS ANTIMALARIAL COMBINATION DRUGS**

Timbul Partogi H. Simorangkir

 <https://doi.org/10.4081/idr.2020.8761> **PDF****CONGENITAL RUBELLA SYNDROME PROFILE OF AUDIOLOGY OUTPATIENT CLINIC IN SURABAYA, INDONESIA**

Elsa Rosalina, Nyilo Purnami

 <https://doi.org/10.4081/idr.2020.8762> **PDF****THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN CADRE'S CAPACITY AND ASSESSING TO THE FAST FOOD SELLER'S PERFORMANCE IN FOOD HYGIENE AND SANITATION IN MOKOAU PRIMARY HEALTH CARE, KENDARI CITY**

Tasnim, Maria Inge Lusida

 <https://doi.org/10.4081/idr.2020.8765> **PDF****HYPERBARIC HYPEROXIA EXPOSURE IN SUPPRESSING HUMAN IMMUNODEFICIENCYVIRUS REPLICATION: AN EXPERIMENTAL *IN VITRO* IN PERIPHERAL MONONUCLEAR BLOOD CELLS CULTURE**

Retno Budiarti, Siti Qamariyah Khairunisa, Nasronudin, Kuntaman, Guritno

 <https://doi.org/10.4081/idr.2020.8743> **PDF****AN ADULT PATIENT WITH SUSPECTED OF MONKEYPOX INFECTION DIFFERENTIAL DIAGNOSED TO CHICKENPOX**

Junis Tumewu, Maya Wardiana, Evy Ervianty, Sawitri, Rahmadewi, Sylvia Anggraeni, Yuri Widia, Mochamad Amin, Siti Rochmanah Oktaviani Sulichah, Kuntaman K, Juniastuti, Maria Inge Lusida

 <https://doi.org/10.4081/idr.2020.8724>

 PDF

THE ANTIBACTERIAL ACTIVITY OF TEMBELEKAN LEAF (*LANTANA CAMARA* L.) AND KOPASANDA LEAF (*CHROMOLAENA ODORATA* L.) EXTRACTS AGAINST *STAPHYLOCOCCUS AUREUS*

Sri Anggarini Rasyid, Sugireng, Ridwan Adi Surya, Sanatang, Rosdarni, Wa Ode Rejeki Natalia

 <https://doi.org/10.4081/idr.2020.8734>

 PDF

MOST READ LAST MONTH

COVID-19 R0: Magic number or conundrum?

 93

National Institute for the Infectious Diseases “L. Spallanzani”...

 67

Pathogenesis of HIV infection

 36

SARS-CoV-2, “common cold” coronaviruses’ cross-reactivity and “herd...”

 20

Advances in rapid identification and susceptibility testing of...

 18

KEYWORDS

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Zoonotic and other gastrointestinal parasites in cats in Lumajang, East Java, Indonesia

Izzu Ar-Rifqi Rabbani,¹ Fairuz Jihan Mareta,¹ Kusnoto,² Poedji Hastutie,² Nunuk Dyah Retno Lastuti,¹ Mufasirin,^{2,6} Suharsono,³ I Komang Wiarsa Sardjana,⁴ Moh. Sukmanadi,⁵ Lucia Tri Suwanti^{2,6}

¹Faculty of Veterinary Medicine;

²Department of Veterinary Parasitology;

³Department of Veterinary Anatomy;

⁴Department of Veterinary Clinic;

⁵Department of Veterinary Basic

Medicine, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine; ⁶Institute of Tropical Disease, Universitas Airlangga, Surabaya, Indonesia

Abstract

Relationship between humans and cats has negative impact associates with zoonotic diseases. It is the reason why studies on the prevalence of gastrointestinal (GI) parasites in cats are important. Some of zoonotic GI parasites in cats are *Toxocara* spp, *Ancylostoma* sp, and *Toxoplasma gondii*. The current study was conducted to investigate the prevalence of GI parasites in owned and stray cats in Lumajang East Java Indonesia. One hundred and twenty fecal samples were collected from owned and stray cats on November 2018 to January 2019. The samples were examined by direct smears, sedimentation and flotation techniques. Identification of parasites was determined based on the morphology of worm eggs and protozoan cysts. The results showed that gastrointestinal parasites were found in 68.33% (82/120) examined samples, respectively, 48.33% (29/60) and 88.33% (53/60) from owned cats and stray cats. We found 7 genera of parasites, 4 genera of worm eggs and 2 genera protozoan oocyst. The egg worm were *Toxocara cati* (40 %), *Toxocara leonina*. (10.33%), *Ancylostoma* sp. (18.33%), *Diphylobothrium* sp. (3.33%) and *Dipylidium caninum* (1.67%). The protozoan oocyst were *Isospora felis* (27.5%), *Isospora rivolta* (13.33%) and *Eimeria* spp. (8.33%). *Toxocara cati*, *Ancylostoma* sp. (hookworm), *Diphylobothrium* sp. and *Dipylidium caninum* were zoonotic parasites. Rate infection in younger and older cat were no significant difference. One cat can be infected one or more parasite. To conclude, the prevalence of zoonotic GI parasites both in owned and stray cats were

high. It is necessary to plan a program to control this zoonotic parasites.

Introduction

Cats are common pets in all countries. The close relationship between humans and cats has positive and negative impact. Negative impact associates with zoonotic diseases which can be dangerous for human health. Domestic cats and also wild felids are a potential source of a number of infectious disease agents such as several zoonotic parasites,¹ while another researcher reported that stray cats can act as potential sources of soil contamination with zoonotic parasites.²

The gastrointestinal (GI) parasites are cosmopolitan pathogens and some species of parasite are zoonotic. For promoting public health protection, many researchers in the world have been interested in the epidemiology of GI parasites in cats, including in Egypt,³ in Europe,⁴ in Iran,⁵ in China⁶ in Serbia,⁷ and in Poland.² They found parasites such as *Toxocara* sp, *Toxascaris leonina*, *Ancylostoma* sp, *Trichuris* sp, *Dipylidium caninum*, *Taenia* sp, *Capillaria* spp, *Paragonimus* sp, *Cystoisospora* sp, *Toxoplasma gondii*, *Sarcocyst* spp, *Isospora* spp., *Blastocystis* sp. and *Giardia* sp.²⁻⁷

Considering the role of parasites in human beings and domestic animals health, therefore this study aimed to estimate the prevalence of GI parasites, including the zoonotic parasites in owned and stray cats in Lumajang, East Java, Indonesia. This knowledge is important to formulate the effectively zoonotic disease control program.

Materials and Methods

Sample Collection

Collecting samples were carried out on November 2018 to January 2019. One hundred and twenty fecal samples were collected from 60 owned and 60 stray cats in Lumajang, East Java, Indonesia. Term of owned cat is a household cat that lives in housing and is maintained by the owner, while stray cat is domestic cat that lives in market and has no owner. Stray cats were caught and caged by researcher. During the first defecation of the owned cat, excrement was collected by the owner at the house, while stray cat was collected by researcher. The faeces was placed into a disposable plastic container with 5% formalin for fixation worm egg and 2,5% potassium dichro-

Correspondence: Lucia Tri Suwanti, Department of Veterinary Parasitology, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Universitas Airlangga, Kampus C Unair Jl. Mulyorejo, Surabaya, 60115 Indonesia.
Tel. +62 81226094872
E-mail: tswant@gmail.com

Key words: Gastrointestinal parasites, owned cat, stray cat, zoonotic parasite.

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mat for fixation protozoan cysts and all of samples were stored at about 4°C for examination. Data such as the age and gender of cats were recorded.

Parasites Examination

All cat faeces were transported to Department of Veterinary Parasitology, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine Universitas Airlangga for examination. The samples were evaluated by direct wet smears, sedimentation and sugar flotation method. Direct wet smears were observed by put faeces on slide with a drop of aquades and directly the prepared slides were examined under light microscope at 100x and 400x magnification.

Sedimentation and sugar flotation method. Faeces samples were diluted with

aquades (1:9) and then were filtered. Filtrat was centrifugated 1500 rpm for 5 min and supernatant was discharge. This step was repeated until supernatant was clear. A small of sediment was put on slide with a drop of aquades and was examined under light microscope. Remaining sediment was added with sugar solution and was centrifugated 1500 rpm for 5 min. Centrifuge tube was put on the rack and was added sugar solution until full and the solution sugar covered mouth of tube. Tube was covered by covee slip and was waited for 5 min. Cover slip was took and put on slide and examined under light microscope at 100x and 400x magnification.

Parasites were identified based on morphological and morphometric features of worm eggs and protozoan (oo) cysts. The overall prevalence of gastrointestinal parasites was estimated as the number of cats found to be positive for the presence at least one species of parasite divided by the total number of cats examined. The prevalence of each parasite was calculated as the number of infected individuals over the total number of cats examined.

Statistical Analysis

The comparison between between kind and age of cats were carried out using the Chi-squared test with program SPSS (Statistical Package for Social Sciences). The statistical significance was defined if values of $P < 0.05$.

Results

Of the 120 faecal samples, 68.33% (82/120) were positive constaining at least one species of GI parasite. The prevalence of parasites in stray cats was higher than in owned cats, 88.33% (53/60) for stray cats and 48,33% (29/60) for owned cats (Table 1).

A total of 8 species of GI parasite were identified microscopically both in owned cat and stray cat faeces, 5 species of worm and 3 species of protozoan (Table 2.). That parasites in both owned and stray cats, respectively, were *Toxocara cati* (18.33% or 11/60 and 61.67% or 37/60), *Toxocaris leonina* (3.33% or 2/60 and 18,33% or 11/60), *Ancylostoma* sp. (11.67% or 7/60 and 25% or 15/60), *Diphylobothrium* sp. (5% or 3/60 and 1.67% or 1/60), *Dipylidium caninum* (3.33% or 2/60 and 0%), *Isospora felis* (15% or 9/60 and 40% or 24/60), *Isospora rivolta* (8.33% or 5/60 and 18.33% or 11/60) and *Eimeria* spp. (5% or 3/60 and 11.67% or 7/60). And overall, the prevalence of intestinal parasites in the younger (< 1 year) and older (≥ 1 year) cats had no significant difference.

One cat can infect by single or mix parasites and the cats frequently mix infected two parasite species or three, even four parasite species. In this study, mix parasites infections were observed in the owned and stray cat populations (Table 3). *Toxocaris leonina* and *D. caninum* eggs and *Eimeria*

sp oocyst always found together with other species. *Toxocaris leonina* always together with *T. cati*. *D. caninum* egg and *Eimeria* sp oocyst especially together with *Ancylostoma* sp.

Discussion

The prevalence GI parasite infection in cat in Lumajang was high (68.33%) which in stray cats was higher (88.33%) than in owned cats (48.33%). With these intersting results, the author assumed that owned cats get better care by their owners, while stray cats find own food and often scavenge garbage. The prevalence of GI parasites infections both in stray cats and owned cats in Lumajang Indonesia was very high. The high prevalence of GI infection in cats, aspecialy in stray cats, also reported by previous reseachers. Epidemiological studies have confirmed that stray cat populations are a very important reservoir of worm and protozoan parasites and stray cats are as

Table 1. The prevalence of infections with gastrointestinal parasites in faecal examined cats.

Cat	Parasite	Location			Total
		North	Center	South	
Owned Cat	Worm	3/20 (15%)	4/20 (20%)	8/20 (20%)	29/60 (48.33%)
	Protozoa	4/20 (20%)	3/20 (15%)	3/20 (15%)	
	Worm and Protozoal	0	1/20 (20%)	3/20 (15%)	
Stray Cat	Worm	9/20 (45%)	4/20 (20%)	6/20 (30%)	53/60 (88.33%)
	Protozoa	0	4/20 (20%)	2/20 (10%)	
	Worm and Protozoal	9/20 (45%)	12/20 (60%)	7/20 (35%)	
	Total	25/40 (62.5%)	28/40 (70%)	29/40 (72.5%)	

Table 2. The prevalence of each species of gastrointestinal parasites in faecal examined cats.

Parasite	No of cat positive (%)						Total (n=120)
	Owned Cat (n=60)			Stray Cat (n=60)			
	< 1 th	≥ 1 th	Total	< 1 th	≥ 1 th	Total	
<i>Toxocara cati</i> .	5(8.33)	6 (10)	11(18.33)	18(30)	19(31.67)	37 (61.67)	48(40)
<i>Toxascaris leonina</i>	1(1.67)	1(1.67)	2 (3.33)	4(6.67)	7(11.67)	11(18.33)	13(10.33)
<i>Ancylostoma</i> sp.	2(3.33)	5(8.33)	7(11.67)	4(6.67)	11(18.33)	15(25)	22(18.33)
<i>Diphylobothrium</i> sp.	2 (3.33)	1(1.67)	3 (5)	0	1(1.67)	1(1.67)	4(3.33)
<i>Dipylidium caninum</i>	0	2(3.33)	2 (3.33)	0	0	0	2(1.67)
<i>Isospora felis</i> .	6 (10)	3 (5)	9 (15)	11(18.33)	13(21.67)	24 (40)	33(27.5)
<i>Isospora rivolta</i>	1(1.67)	4(6.67)	5 (8.33)	5(8.33)	6 (10)	11(18.33)	16(13.33)
<i>Eimeria</i> spp.	2(3.33)	1(1.67)	3 (5)	4(6.67)	3(5)	7(11.67)	10(8.33)

potential sources of soil contamination with zoonotic parasites.² The prevalence of GI parasite infection in stray cats in Iran 95.6% and 86.4%^{5,8} and in Egypt 91%³. The prevalence in owned cat in Europe 50.7%,⁴ in China 41.39 %⁶ and in Serbia 40.19%.⁷

In this research, four of 5 worm were zoonotic parasites, including, *Toxocara cati*, *Ancylostoma* sp., *Diphylobothrium* sp. and *Dipylidium caninum*. *Toxocara cati* was the most common parasite found in both owned and stray cat faeces, 18.33% (11/60) and 61.67% (37/60), respectively. According to,² *Toxocara* was an important zoonotic risk that cause larva migrans syndromes and ocular toxocarosis for the human population, especially children. Their research reported that the prevalence of *T. cati* in stray cats was found to be 27.9 % in Poland. Reseacher from Europe and China also reported that *T. cati* was dominant parasite infected 19.7% and 17.78% of household cats, respectively.^{4,6}

In this study, *Ancylostoma* sp. or hookworm was the second zoonotic parasites in cats after *T. cati*. The prevalence of hook-

worm in owned cats was 11.67% (7/60), while in srstay cats was 25% (15/60). Several reports of human infections by feline hookworm infections have been reported from soil contaminated cats faeces.¹ Hookworm eggs hatch develop to become infective (filariform) larvae that can penetrate the skin of animals or human hosts. Hookworm is one of the four most common soil-transmitted helminths (STH). STH have been documented as causing impairment of growth and nutrition because it causes to damage the intestinal mucosa leading to bleeding, loss of iron and anemia.⁹

Other species worm that infected cats in these study was *Toxocaris leonina*. The prevalence was (10.33%) and it was lower than in Korean (31.5%)¹⁰. Human infection by *T. leonina* has not been reported,¹¹ it is non zoonotic worm.

Diphylobothrium sp. and *Dipylidium caninum* was encountered with low prevalence in comparison with other species. Diphylobothriid typeworm also found very low prevalence (0.2%) in ferral cats in Korea.¹² *Diphylobothrium* sp can infect cat

or human by eating raw or undercooked fish. Fish infected with *Diphylobothrium* larvae may be consumed in any country in the world. The prevalence of *D. caninum* infection in stary cats in Egypts was lower (5%),³ while in Iran was lowest (2.9%).⁵

In recent study, all of protozoan were non zoonotic parasite, they were 27.5%, 13.33% and 8.33% for *Isospora felis*, *I. rivolta* and *Eimeria* sp, respectively. These findings were lower than prevalence in China and Italy.^{6,13} In China the prevalence *I. felis* and *I. rivolta* infection in cat, respectively, were 11.39% and 9.17%,⁶ while in Italy were 3% and 2.3% and they did not found *Eimeria* sp. *Isospora felis* and *I. rivolta* appear to be non pathogenic for cats.⁶

The prevalence of intestinal parasites in the younger (<1 year) and older (≥1 year) cats had no significant difference. These finding was similar with result reseach in China,⁶ but different with report in Italy¹³ which reported that parasite infections were identified in significantly more cats younger than 18 months of age (P<0.05), and most often associated with the presence of compatible clinical signs (P<0.05).

As well as the results of this study that found one cat can infect by single or mix parasites and the cats frequently mix infected two parasite species or three, even four parasite species, many researcher also reported it.^{3,6} Indeed, 81.3% domestic cats in Ode – Irele and Oyo communities, Southwest Nigeria were reported that they were infected with two or more parasites.¹⁴

Table 3. The prevalence of single and mixed parasite infections in cats.

Infection	The prevalence in cat (%)		Total (n=120)	
	Owned Cat n=60	Stray Cat n=60		
Single Parasite	<i>Toxocara cati</i>	7 (11.67)	8 (13.33)	15 (12.5)
	<i>Ancylostoma</i> sp.	2 (3.33)	6 (10)	8 (6.67)
	<i>Diphylobothrium</i> sp.	2 (3.33)	0	2 (1.67)
	<i>I. felis</i>	5 (8.33)	3 (5)	8 (6.67)
	<i>I. rivolta</i>	3 (5)	1(1.67)	4 (3.33)
Mixed 2Parasite	<i>T. cati</i> ; <i>T. leonina</i>	2 (3.33)	3 (5)	5 (4.17)
	<i>T. cati</i> , <i>Ancylostoma</i> sp	1(1.67)	0	1 (0.83)
	<i>T. cati</i> , <i>I. felis</i>	0	9 (15)	9 (7.5)
	<i>T. cati</i> , <i>I. rivolta</i>	0	2 (3.33)	2 (1.67)
	<i>T. cati</i> , <i>Eimeria</i> sp	0	2 (3.33)	2 (1.67)
	<i>Ancylostoma</i> sp., <i>D. caninum</i>	1 (1.67)	0	1 (0.83)
	<i>Ancylostoma</i> sp., <i>Eimeria</i> sp	1 (1.67)	0	1 (0.83)
	<i>Ancylostoma</i> sp., <i>I. felis</i>	0	2 (3.33)	2 (1.67)
	<i>Ancylostoma</i> sp., <i>Diphylobothrium</i> sp.	0	1 (1.67)	1 (0.83)
	<i>Diphylobothrium</i> sp., <i>I. felis</i>	1 (1.67)	0	1 (0.83)
	<i>I. felis</i> , <i>I. rivolta</i>	2 (3.33)	1 (1.67)	3 (2.5)
	Mixed 3Parasite	<i>T. cati</i> , <i>T. leonina</i> , <i>Ancylostoma</i> sp.	0	1 (1.67)
<i>T. cati</i> , <i>T. leonina</i> , <i>Eimeria</i> sp		0	2 (3.33)	2 (1.67)
<i>T. cati</i> , <i>T. leonina</i> , <i>I. felis</i>		0	1 (1.67)	1 (0.83)
<i>T. cati</i> , <i>T. leonina</i> , <i>I. rivolta</i>		0	2 (3.33)	2 (1.67)
<i>T. cati</i> , <i>Ancylostoma</i> sp., <i>Eimeria</i> sp.		0	1 (1.67)	1 (0.83)
<i>T. cati</i> , <i>Ancylostoma</i> sp., <i>I. felis</i>		0	1 (1.67)	1 (0.83)
<i>T. cati</i> , <i>I. felis</i> , <i>I. rivolta</i>		0	2 (3.33)	2 (1.67)
<i>Ancylostoma</i> sp., <i>I. felis</i> , <i>I. rivolta</i>		0	1(1.67)	1 (0.83)
<i>Ancylostoma</i> sp., <i>Dipylidium caninum</i> , <i>Eimeria</i> sp		1 (1.67)	0	1 (0.83)
Mixed 4Parasite		<i>T. cati</i> , <i>Ancylostoma</i> sp., <i>I. felis</i> , <i>Eimeria</i> sp.	1 (1.67)	1 (1.67)
	<i>T. cati</i> , <i>T. leonina</i> , <i>I. felis</i> , <i>Eimeria</i> sp.	0	1 (1.67)	1 (0.83)
	<i>T. cati</i> , <i>T. leonina</i> , <i>I. felis</i> , <i>I. rivolta</i>	0	1 (1.67)	1 (0.83)
	<i>T. cati</i> , <i>Ancylostoma</i> sp., <i>I. felis</i> , <i>I. rivolta</i>	0	1 (1.67)	1 (0.83)
Total	29 (48.33)	53(88.33)	82 (68.33)	

Conclusions

The prevalence of zoonotic gastrointestinal parasites both in owned and stray cats in Lumajang Indonesia were high. It is necessary to plan a program to control this zoonotic parasites.

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