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Editor: Rusłan Sałamatin
Typefaces: BRYGADA 1918, Lato
The XXV Congress of the Polish Parasitological Society

9–12 September 2019, Warsaw

Abstracts
Anthelmintic resistance in strongylid nematodes parasitizing wild equids (Equidae): the first finding of resistance in the Askania Nova Biosphere reserve, Ukraine

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Anthelmintic resistance in nematode parasites of livestock, including domestic horses, is widespread throughout the world. Regarding domestic horses, the resistance in nematodes – small strongylides (Cyathostominae) to benzimidazole anthelmintic (BZ) drugs is the biggest problem nowadays. In Europe, the BZ-resistance in cyathostomes of domestic horses was detected in many countries, including Ukraine. However, no data on the presence of BZ-resistance in wild equids have been published to date. The purpose of our work was to study the manifestations of the BZ-resistance in domestic and wild equids kept in the Askania Nova Biosphere Reserve, Ukraine.

The Biosphere Reserve “Askania Nova” is situated in the steppe zone of South Ukraine (46°29’ North and 33°58’ East). Six species of equids: wild Przewalski’s horses (Equus ferus przewalskii), donkeys (E. asinus), Turkmen kulans (E. hemionus), plain zebras (E. burchelli), mountain zebras (E. grevyi), domestic horses and Shetland ponies (E. caballus) are kept in large enclosures of the Reserve under semi-free conditions. Regular monitoring studies of the level of infection of all these equid species are performed twice a year by the coprologic McMaster method (Herd, 1992) with sensitivity of 25 eggs per gram of feces (EPG). According to the results of coprological examination, animals are treated with anthelmintics; mostly the benzimidazole drugs of various producers containing albendazole are used. Coprological data (EPG values) collected before and after anthelmintic treatments of various equids from 2009 to 2017 were re-analyze using the WAAVP protocol for the Fecal Egg Count Reduction Test (FECRT) (Coles et al., 2006).

The FECRT for BZ drug “Albendazole-10%” (ZooVetPromSnab, Ukraine) was performed in March 2019 on four species: domestic horses and ponies, donkeys, plain and mountain zebras. All animals were examined on presence of gastrointestinal parasites; the most infected animals (n=90) were dewormed by the “Albendazole-10%” in dosage of 0.75 g per 10 kg of body weight. Coprologic examinations of all animals were performed on the 0 Day (before treatment) and on the 14th day after treatment. The FECRT was performed according to the WAAVP protocol.

The preliminary results of long-term monitoring studies (2009 to 2017) revealed a decrease of efficacy the BZ drugs in wild and domestic equids. The first signs of presence of BZ resist-