

# Spurious Parasites in a Dog

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A spurious parasite, according to Maurice C. Hall (1), is anything which is not a true parasite, at least in the host in which it is found. For example intestinal parasite ova of chickens can often be demonstrated in the feces of farm dogs who have been eating entrails of infested birds.

The animal showing the largest number of spurious parasitic ova last year was presented to the small animal clinic on November 19. It was a male collie, boarder, about five years old. The dog was brought in suffering from a skin disorder. Scrapings failed to reveal any external parasites and a routine fecal examination was made.

Large numbers of the following sheep parasite ova were observed.

- Nematodirus species.
- Nematode ova resembling *Haemonchus contortus*.
- Nematode ova resembling *Oesophagastnum* species.
- Nematode ova resembling *Strongyloides westeri*.
- Trichuris ovis*.
- Cestode ova, *Moniezia* species.
- Coccidial oocysts resembling *Eimeria* species of sheep.

At this time no parasite ova of the dog were discernible.

The question was naturally raised as to whether the dog was harboring the parasites or if the ova were being picked up with the feed and were passed through without being digested.

The sample on the twenty-first revealed all the types of ova and coccidia still present. On the twenty-second the sample was negative. The following three days samples were taken and checked but as long as the dog remained in the hospital the feces remained negative for sheep parasite ova.

The owner was questioned as to the habits of the dog and it was learned that the animal had been fed quite constantly off of a floor of the sheep barn. As a

matter of routine the dog was returned to the clinic when tape worm segments were found in the feces. Upon administration of arecoline hydrobromide a large mass of



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*Dipylidium caninum* was passed but no further evidence of sheep parasites was noticed.

References: (1). *Diagnosis and Treatment of External Parasites*, Maurice C. Hall.

## The Economic Future

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there were two that had an income of less than \$2500. It must be remembered that any change in the practice of medicine should be compatible with the interests of the profession as well as the public and the change would preferably come from within the profession.

The costs, and the methods of meeting the costs of medical services are very important. But the paramount importance is the alleviation of illness and its attending hardships and sufferings.

Editors Note: Next Issue Mr. Bjornson will discuss the question of state medicine from the point of view of the veterinarian.