

## **EPIDEMIOLOGICAL SURVEY OF GASTROINTESTINAL PARASITES OF CATS AND DOGS IN BARBADOS AND NASSAU, BAHAMAS**

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Endoparasitism plagues dogs and cats worldwide, however published information is lacking in the Caribbean. This research compared the prevalence of endoparasites in dogs and cats in Barbados and the Bahamas based on host factors including sex, breed, age and living environment. A total of 172 dogs (120 and 52) and 64 cats (53 and 11) were sampled from Barbados and Nassau respectively.

*Trichuris* spp., *Toxocara canis*, *Ancylostoma* spp., *Dipylidium* spp., *Strongyloides* spp., *Taenia* spp., *Capillaria* spp. and *Cystoisopora* spp. were detected on faecal analysis. Endoparasite prevalence ranged from 2% - 56.5% on both islands. There were no statistically significant associations between the presence of gastrointestinal parasites and the aforementioned host factors for both dogs and cats on both islands.

Since *Ancylostoma* spp. was the most prevalent parasite on both islands and can harm pets and humans, we recommend greater pet owner education and routine faecal testing and deworming of pets.

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