

AN INVESTIGATION INTO THE PREVALENCE OF ECTOPARASITES OF DOGS IN TRINIDAD AND JAMAICA

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Dogs are known to host a number of ectoparasites of veterinary and public health significance. A cross-sectional survey was conducted to examine the prevalence and factors associated with ectoparasites in the canid population in Trinidad and Jamaica. A total of 275 dogs (Trinidad=137; Jamaica=138) were screened for ectoparasites and questionnaires were completed to obtain information on age, sex, breed and management practices by owners/handlers. In Trinidad and Jamaica respectively, a total of 38 (27.7%) and 28 (20.3%) dogs were infested with ectoparasites: two genera each of ticks (*Rhipicephalus sanguineus* (16% and 14.5%), *Ixodes* spp. (0.7% in Jamaica only); fleas (*Ctenocephalides felis* 22.6% and 4.3%) and an unidentified flea (Trinidad) and mites (Jamaica) were detected. Parasite prevalence was significantly higher in pet dogs on both islands and outdoor dogs in Trinidad only ($p < 0.05$). Client education on the control of ectoparasites in the pet population on both islands is therefore warranted.