



**PREVALENCE AND INTENSITY OF ECTOPARASITES IN EXOTIC PETS  
FOUND IN THE PROVINCE OF CAVITE**

An Undergraduate Thesis Presented to the  
Biological Sciences Department  
College of Science and Computer Studies  
De La Salle University - Dasmariñas  
City of Dasmariñas, Cavite

In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree  
Bachelor of Science in Biology Major in Human Biology

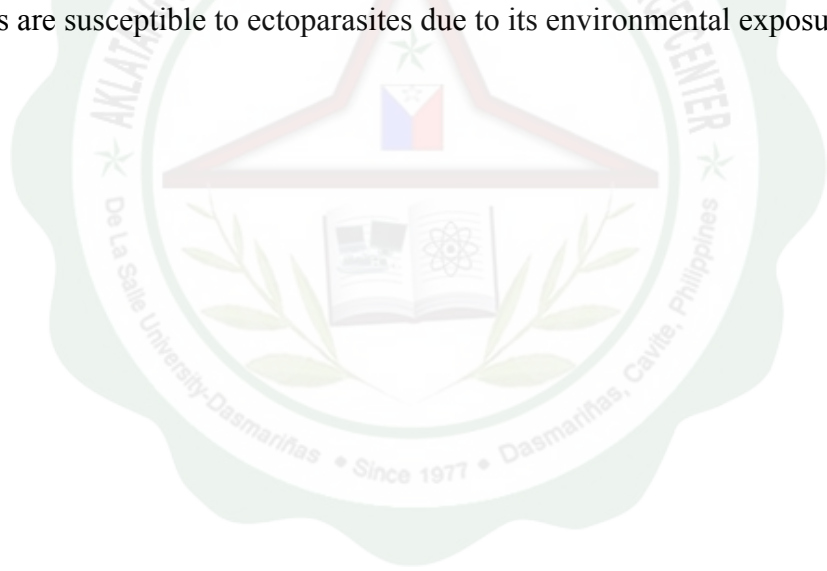
**LOUISE B. DEL ROSARIO**  
**VERA-MARIE CHUKWUAMAKA R. OKAFOR**

March 2015



### ABSTRACT

Ectoparasites are a diverse group of organisms that inhabit the integument of its host and feed on dead skin cells, tissue fluids, blood and/or lymph. The presence of ectoparasites in animals creates a multitude of health risks and plays an important role in the transmission of diseases to animals and humans, especially those that come in contact with the ectoparasite-infected animals. The study determined the prevalence of ectoparasites in exotic pets in the province of Cavite. All animals' body parts and regions were examined for possible ectoparasite infestation. Collection of ectoparasites was performed using acetate strip method, removal by forceps, and combing. The ectoparasites recovered were preserved in several mixtures of ethanol from 70% to 95%, acetic acid, potassium hydroxide and followed by soaking the specimen in xylene and observed under a photomicroscope. Results reveal that only the *Columba livia* (Rock pigeon) was found positive of the ectoparasites *Columbicola columbae* (5.75) and *Falculifer rostratus* (30). This study concluded that exotic pets were highly maintained in households and birds like pigeons are susceptible to ectoparasites due to its environmental exposure.





## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Title Page	1
Abstract	2
Approval Sheet	3
Acknowledgements	4
Table of Contents	5
<b>CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION</b>	
1.1 Background of the Study	7
1.2 Conceptual Framework	9
1.3 Statement of the Problem	10
1.4 Scope and Limitations	10
1.5 Significance of the Study	11
1.6 Definition of Terms	11
<b>CHAPTER 2 LITERATURE REVIEW</b>	
2.1 Conceptual Literature	13
2.2 Related Studies	21
<b>CHAPTER 3 METHODOLOGY</b>	
3.1 Research Design	25
3.2 Research Setting	25
3.3 Research Procedure	25
3.4 Data Gathering and Statistical Analysis	27



CHAPTER 4 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

4.1 Results	28
4.2 Discussion	30

CHAPTER 5 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

5.1 Conclusion	33
5.2 Recommendation	33
Cited References	34
Appendices	
A. Standard Procedure	41
B. Distinguishing Features of Ectoparasites	45
C. Raw Data	47
D. Exotic Pets Examined	49
E. Research Procedures	68
F. Curriculum Vitae	69