



DETECTION of BLOOD PARASITES in DOMESTIC DOGS (*Canis familiaris*) CONFINED in DOG SHELTER at BACoor CITY, CAVITE

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ABSTRACT

This descriptive research aimed to determine the blood parasites present in *Canis familiaris* (domestic dogs) confined at Strike Animal Welfare Society (SAWS) located in the district of Salinas, Bacoor, Cavite. The study focused on the detection of *Babesia* sp., and filarial worms in the blood of dogs. Examination of thin and thick blood smears was used in identifying these parasites, thin blood smears for the detection of *Babesia* sp. whereas modified Knott's Test (thick smear) was used for the detection of *Dirofilaria immitis*. Using Sysmex cell counting chamber, eosinophil count was obtained from the blood of dogs. In this study, two types of parasites were detected; the *Babesia* sp. which is a protozoan and the *D. immitis* which is a filarial worm, also known as heartworm. Out of 25 tested dogs, 4 (16%) dogs were positive with *Babesia* sp. and 11 (44%) dogs had *D. immitis*. Two (15%) out of the 13 infected dogs were positive of both *Babesia* sp. and *D. immitis*. Among the 25 dogs examined, majority (68%) had a normal eosinophil (100-1200 ul) while 24% showed an abnormally high (>1,200 ul) count. 8% had an abnormally low (<100) count. Hence, parasitemia in dogs confined in SAWS was considered low. Presence of these parasites in dogs may lead to zoonosis wherein handlers may be considered as accidental host.



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