

GASTROINTESTINAL HELMINTHES IN STRAY CATS (*FELIS CATUS*) FROM AIZAWL, MIZORAM, INDIA

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Abstract. Gastrointestinal helminthes were collected from 27 necropsied stray cats (*Felis catus*) in Aizawl, Mizoram, India from January 2005 to April, 2009. The examined cats showed mixed helminthic infections, with an overall prevalence of 85.2%. Five nematodes, 2 cestodes and 1 trematode were identified. The most common helminthes were *Taenia taeniaeformis* (70.4%), *Toxocara cati* (59.3%), *Physaloptera praeputalis* (44.4%), *Dipylidium caninum* (40.7%), *Spirocerca felineus* (18.5%), *Gnathostoma spinigerum* (11.1%), *Ancylostoma tubaeforme* (7.4%) and *Opisthorchis* sp (3.7%). Co-infection with *T. taeniaeformis* and *T. cati* was seen in 48.1% (13/27), indicating the possibility of these cats were paratenic hosts for toxocariasis in cats.

Keywords: stray cats, gastrointestinal helminth, India

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