

Prevalence of Canine Giardiasis in Korea

Jianzhu Liu^{a,b}, Sang-Eun Lee^a and Kun-Ho Song^{a*}

^aLaboratory of Veterinary Internal Medicine, College of Veterinary Medicine, Chungnam National University, Daejeon 305-764, Korea

^bLaboratory of Veterinary Internal Medicine, College of Veterinary Medicine, Shandong Agricultural University, Taian 271018, China

Purpose: This study was carried out a survey for the presence of *Giardia intestinalis* infections in dogs using a *Giardia* ELISA kit (SNAP[®] test, IDEXX Laboratories, Inc., Westbrook, ME).

Materials and Methods: Four-hundred and seventy two dogs (190 males and 282 females) were examined for a *Giardia intestinalis* infection in four different provinces (Kyunggi, Chonnam, Kyungnam and Chungnam) and a Seoul city in Korea.

Results: Slightly more male dogs (15.0%) than female (8.6%) dogs were affected, there was no significant difference between the two groups. The overall positive rates of *Giardia intestinalis* infection were 11.2%, 14.9% being found in the < 2-year-old group, 8.7% in the 2-5 year-old-group, and 2.1% in the > 5-year-old group. X^2 analysis revealed a significantly higher prevalence (14.9%, $P < 0.05$) in the < 2-year-old group than in the other two groups, and a significantly higher prevalence in symptomatic dogs (47.6%, $P < 0.001$) in asymptomatic dogs (7.7%).

Conclusions: This study is the first large-scale survey of canine *Giardia intestinalis* infections in Korea, and is expected provide a useful reference for clinicians. *Giardia*-infected dogs should be treated for hygienic management as well as to prevent dog to human transmission.

Key words: ELISA, *Giardia intestinalis*, prevalence, dog

* Corresponding author: songkh@cnu.ac.kr