

Prevalence of *Toxocara canis* in north of West Bank of Palestine and the risk of public health

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Abstract:

This study was performed to investigate the prevalence of *Toxocara canis* parasite in local districts in the north of West Bank of Palestine and to shed light on its impact on local public health. Random samples from 132 dogs were collected and examined for the parasite. The floating technique was used. Dogs were divided according to three age groups. Dogs of ages lower than 6 months, from 6 to 12 months of age and dogs of more than 12 months of age. The target areas were the three main cities (Nablus, Jenin and Tulkarm) and three main villages for each city. Results of the study showed that the prevailing of the parasites in the targeted areas. Rural areas related to Jenin had the most infections ($P < 0.05$) compared to Jenin district. However, young dogs had more ($P < 0.05$) infections compared to old ones. Several recommendations were provided to reduce the impact of the infection on public health

Key words: *Toxocara canis*, dogs, rural and urban districts, public health

