An-Najah National University
Department of Veterinary Medicine

Occurrence of Gastrointestinal Parasite in Rabbits

Ibraheem Dawabsheh, Ahmed Hussein, Odai Ali, Adnan Fayyad

Department of Veterinary Medicine, An-Najah National University

Introduction:

In recent years the mortality in rabbits increased significantly. Many infectious agents can cause death in rabbits, with the parasitic and protozoal causes are the largest.

Objectives:

The aim of this study is to determine the gastrointestinal parasite species carried by rabbits in Palestine and to determine the effect of management systems and age on the occurrences of gastrointestinal parasite.

Materials and Methods:

In this study, fecal samples of clinically healthy crossbred rabbits (n: 30) were collected from selected rabbits farms. The fecal samples were examined by sedimentation and flotation techniques using distilled water and saturated salt solution.

Results:

The parasite infestation rate was (66.67%) in cross breed rabbits (20/30), *Eimeria* eggs were the most prevalent in the feces (46.6%), *Trichostrongylus* infestation reach (26.6%), *Obeliscoides cuniculi* was the least infestation (3.3%).

A

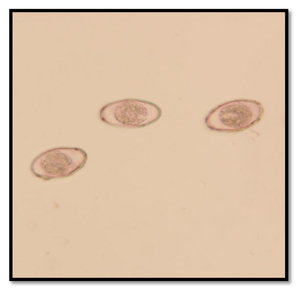
Fig. 1. Egg of nematode *Trichostrongylus.* Magnification =60x

B

Fig. 2. Larva of nematode Trichostrongylus. Magnification =40x

C

Fig.3. Oocyst of *Eimeria.* Magnification =40x



D

Fig. 4. Segmented Egg of nematode *Obeliscoides cuniculi.* Magnification =60x

Table 1: Prevalence of parasite species in rabbits

Infected animal	Parasite species		
	Eimeria spp.	*Trichostrongylus* spp.	*Obeliscoides cuniculi* spp.
(20) 66.67%	(14) 46.6%	(8) 26.6%	(1) 3.3%

Summary:

- Parasite infestation rate was (66.67%) in cross breed rabbits (20/30).
- *Eimeria* eggs were the most prevalent in the feces (46.6%).
- *Trichostrongylus* infestation reach (26.6%), *Obeliscoides cuniculi* was the least infestation (3.3%).
- The mixed infestation *Eimeria* and *Trichostrongylus* were found in 3 cases.

Conclusion:

Depending upon the results of this study, rabbits in Palestine were found to be infected by several parasites species among them *Eimeria* were the most prevalent. There was no age effects on infection rate. However, managements system was found to affect on occurrence of gastrointestinal parasite in rabbits.