Parasitological occurrence with zoonotic potential in equine feces in the city of Salinas, Minas Gerais.

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The horse is an important working tool in the city of Salinas, Minas Gerais, commonly used as a form of transportation for many activities in the rural and urban area of the city. Internal parasites in horses are caused mainly by helminths and protozoa of various species, some of which have zoonotic potential, causing great concern in the controlling of parasites in these animals. To verify the parasitological occurrence with zoonotic potential of equine feces in Salinas, 50 random samples of fresh horse feces were collected directly from the streets of downtown Salinas, where there is a high concentration of these animals, by means of using plastic bags. This portion of which was not in contact with the soil. The samples were divided according to the name of the streets which were identified respectively then sent to the Laboratory of Veterinary Parasitology (LVP) of the Federal Institute of Northern Minas Gerais - Salinas Campus. The Hoffman, Pons and Janes modified (spontaneous sedimentation), according to Amato (1961) was employed, and the slides were analyzed by optic microscopy by utilizing the objectives of 10x and 40x. The results were obtained in percentages calculated by means of simple proportion, with 47 (94%) positive samples. 36 (72%) of the samples contained eggs of superfamily Strongyloidea, 12 (24%) containing Parascaris equorum eggs, 22 (44%) with coccidia oocysts, 8 (16%) containing free-living larvae, 1 (2%) with Strongyloides westeri egg larvae, 5 (10%) with superfamily Strongyloidea egg larvae, and finally, 2 (4%) with eggs similar to cestodes of the Anoplocephalidae family. The presence of S. westeri larvae eggs may be of concern and according to Singh (2002), these nematodes, whose female parasite affects the small intestine of the equine, do not have specific hosts. Instead have preferential hosts of which this is already described in rats and hamsters. This may raise a hypothesis of a possible zoonotic potential, especially in immunocompromised individuals. Approximately half of the samples analyzed contained coccidian oocysts and Marques (2009) reports that the protozoan Cryptosporidium spp. is one of the main intracellular parasites that cause diarrhea, fever, and food malabsorption. Parasitized, protozoal oocysts, released through feces, are the main source of infection contaminating soils, water and food, in addition to infecting other animals such as birds, reptiles and mammals. Hein et al. (2012) states that the direct contact of humans with these animals, and the places where they live, can be determining factors for the development of zoonoses in humans. The results have shown that animals who are present in public streets of Salinas, Minas Gerais can be important vehicles of dispersion and contamination of internal parasitoses between themselves and humans. Therefore, it is necessary to implant preventive means of handling and treating this parasite to prevent further contamination. In conclusion, according to the acquired results there is a parasitological occurrence with zoonotic potential in equine feces in Salinas, Minas Gerais.
Key words: horses; helminths; protozoa.