

Brief Communication

ECHINOCOCCOSIS IN SLAUGHTERED REINDEER
(RANGIFER TARANDUS) IN NORTHERN NORWAY.
PRELIMINARY RESULTS OF A COMBAT/ERADICATION
PROGRAM

The public meat inspection has played an important role in the control of echinococcosis in reindeer in Norway. Hydatide cysts found are usually destroyed by boiling, and discarded liver and lungs are made unaccessible to dogs. Treatment of dogs with arecolin bromidum has also been accomplished to some extent. The prevalence of echinococcosis in reindeer slaughtered during the winter 1975/76 in Kautokeino was 1.5 % (*Kummeneje & Waage 1976*). When the tapeworm anthelmintic praziquantel (*Droncit, Bayer*) was available, measures for combating echinococcosis were intensified, using the public meat inspection as well as systematic treatment of dogs in the program.

The program was started in the summer of 1977 by treatment of dogs which belonged to the owner's of the reindeer in the area concerned. The treatment was repeated during the winter 1977/78, and since then once annually. Praziquantel was used with dosage as recommended. The prevalence of hydatide cysts found at meat inspection was recorded every year. The usual precau-

Table 1. Prevalence of echinococcosis in reindeer slaughtered in the period 1975/76—1980/81 in the western part of Finnmark and the northern part of Troms counties.

	Year of examination					
	1975/76	1976/77	1977/78	1978/79	1979/80	1980/81
Prevalence of echinococcosis	1.5 %	1.45 %	1.20 %	0.45 %	0.23 %	0.11 %
Number of reindeer examined	3712	5269	6560	8861	8211	9978
Treatment of dogs	None	None	Twice	Once	Once	Once

tions were taken by the public meat control to make discarded lungs and livers unaccessible to dogs.

The prevalence of echinococcosis is shown in Table 1. During the last years hydatid cysts were found in older reindeer exclusively.

The combat program described against echinococcosis in reindeer-dog seems to work well. The prevalence of echinococcosis in reindeer is reduced from about 1.5 % to 0.11 % during a period of 4 years. Hydatid cysts are now found only in older reindeer. This indicates a reduction of new infections. The program is going to be continued. Eradication of echinococcosis in reindeer-dog in the area might be possible.

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REFERENCE

- Kummeneje, K. & Steinar Waage: Echinococcosis in slaughtered reindeer (Rangifer tarandus) in the northern part of Troms and western part of Finnmark counties during the winter 1975/76. Acta vet. scand. 1976, 17, 359—362.*

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