

POSTER PRESENTATION

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# Cross-infection of gastrointestinal nematodes between winter corralled semi-domesticated reindeer (*Rangifer tarandus tarandus*) and sheep (*Ovis aries*)

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From Parasite infections of domestic animals in the Nordic countries – emerging threats and challenges. The 22nd Symposium of the Nordic Committee for Veterinary Scientific Cooperation (NKVet) Helsinki, Finland. 7-9 September 2008

## Summary

The increasing number of sheep (*Ovis aries*) in the reindeer (*Rangifer tarandus tarandus*) herding area in North Finland and supplementary winter feeding of reindeer in corrals shared with sheep causes potential for cross-infection of gastrointestinal nematodes between reindeer and sheep. The aim of this study was to elucidate this potential. The study included 46 animals, of which 12 reindeer and 8 sheep had shared a corral. Twelve reindeer had no known contact with sheep. Both reindeer groups shared free ranging areas with wild moose (*Alces alces*). Two moose were included in this study, as were 12 sheep which had no contact with other ruminants. After slaughter in September-November abomasa and proximal small intestines were collected and examined for gastrointestinal nematodes. The parasites were collected, counted and identified. Following species were found in reindeer: *Ostertagia gruehneri*, *Ostertagia arctica*, *Spiculopteragia dagestanica*, *Nematodirus tarandi*, *Nematodirella longissimespiculata* and *Bunostomum trigonocephalum*. Sheep were infected with *Teladorsagia circumcincta*, *Teladorsagia trifurcata*, *Ostertagia gruehneri*, *Ostertagia arctica*, *Nematodirus filicollis* and *Nematodirus spathiger*. *Spiculopteragia dagestanica* and *Ostertagia gruehneri* were identified in moose. *Ostertagia gruehneri*, which is considered to be a reindeer parasite, was only found in the sheep that had shared a corral with reindeer. These sheep were not

found to be infected with other abomasal nematodes. The reindeer that had shared a corral with sheep were not infected with nematodes usually having sheep as their primary host.

Published: 13 October 2010

doi:10.1186/1751-0147-52-S1-S30

**Cite this article as:** Manninen et al.: Cross-infection of gastrointestinal nematodes between winter corralled semi-domesticated reindeer (*Rangifer tarandus tarandus*) and sheep (*Ovis aries*). *Acta Veterinaria Scandinavica* 2010 **52**(Suppl 1):S30.

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