

Prevalence and Risk Factors of Eimeria Spp. and Giardia Spp. in Rabbits of Local Algerian Population

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Abstract : The objective of this study was to determine the prevalence and to identify the risk factors of Eimeria spp. and Giardia spp. infection in rabbits from the local population of four localities in northern Algeria. Dung samples were collected from 16 farms, totalling 111 rabbits, and were analysed by the flotation method. Additional, data regarding the farms and management practices were obtained by means of a questionnaire used in the surveys and interviews. The results revealed that the prevalence of Eimerias pp. contamination was 68.75% (11/16) for farms and 58.56% (65/111) for rabbits, respectively. The prevalence of Giardia spp. was respectively 56.25% (9/16) for farms and 11.7% (13/111) for rabbits. The analyses showed that the prevalence of Eimeria spp. was significantly higher in the farms that did not comply with hygiene and non-conventional feeding and watering. However, the prevalence of Giardia spp. was significant in rabbits kept in poor conditions of rearing. In conclusion, this study showed that the prevalence of these two parasites in rabbits from the local population is relevant and may have important implications for the rabbit industry and public health, especially in rural areas.

Keywords : Algeria, digestive parasites, prevalence, rabbits, risk factors

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