

Zoonotic *Dirofilaria Repens*: Geographic Spread and New Avenues for Control

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Abstract : The mosquito-transmitted nematode *Dirofilaria repens* is the causative agent of subcutaneous filariasis in dogs, other animals and humans. Adults and circulating microfilariae may cause different forms of skin conditions, and various allergic reactions. The infection is distributed in several countries and spreading in several areas of Europe. The control of *D. repens* is pivotal to reduce the transmission in dogs and to minimize the risk of infection in humans, but only few information is available for the chemoprevention of subcutaneous filariasis of dogs. A recent clinical field study showed the efficacy and safety of a monthly administration of an oral formulation containing milbemycin oxime (Milbemax®, Novartis Animal Health) in the chemoprevention of *D. repens* infection in dogs. Most recent and focused insights into epidemiology and control of zoonotic canine subcutaneous filariasis are here discussed.

Keywords : *Dirofilaria repens*, epidemiology, zoonosis, control

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