

# Seroprevalence of *Angiostrongylus vasorum* in dogs in Serbia

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**INTRODUCTION.** Angiostrongylosis in dogs is caused by the nematode *Angiostrongylus vasorum*. It was initially found in France and is often referred to as “the French Heartworm”. The parasite occurs in most of the European countries. In Serbia, little is known about the presence in dogs, although there were single case reports (Simin et al., 2014 Parasit Vectors. 27;7:396) and detection in wild canids (Gavrilović et al., 2017). The aim of this study was to investigate the seroprevalence of *A. vasorum* in dogs in Serbia.

**MATERIALS AND METHODS.** Between 2017 and 2021, 1095 dog blood samples were collected from patients presented in different veterinary clinics in Serbia and analysed at the Institute of Parasitology in Zurich for the presence of circulating *A. vasorum* antigens and specific antibodies against the parasite by ELISAs, using monoclonal and polyclonal antibodies.



**RESULTS AND CONCLUSIONS.** Overall, 25 samples (2,3%) were positive for *A. vasorum* antigen and 41 (3,7%) were positive for *A. vasorum* antibodies. Of these tested samples, two dogs (0,2%) were positive in both tests (antigen and antibodies).

These preliminary results confirm that *A. vasorum* is present in Serbian dogs and therefore support earlier studies. Veterinarians and pet owners should be made aware of these findings and alerted to look for the symptoms indicating canine angiostrongylosis in dogs.

Total number of analysed samples (dogs)	positive for <i>A. vasorum</i> antigen	%	positive for <i>A. vasorum</i> antibodies	%	positive for <i>A. vasorum</i> antigen and antibodies	%
1095	25	2,3	41	3,7	2	0,2

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