



Parasite Forecast

Issue 18

2023

Welcome

Welcome to ESCCAP UK & Ireland parasite forecast for 2023.

SAVSNET real time tick data has shown another lengthy peak of activity from early spring to late autumn in 2022 as well as continued activity throughout December. It's important pet owners remain aware of the possibility of exposure for both themselves and their pets at this time of year. If the warm wet weather extends into the Autumn this year it will promote increased tick activity. Pet owners should be aware of this to ensure both themselves and their pets are adequately protected. Slug activity is also likely to be increasing the risk of *Angiostrongylus vasorum* transmission.

Linguatula serrata has been found for the first time in an untraveled UK dog.

<https://bvajournals.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/vetr.2979> Transmission is through ingestion of raw offal containing the parasite and the dog in question was on a raw diet. Whether the diet was the cause or this is an indication of endemicity is uncertain so maintaining vigilance against possible infection in dogs and recording of cases via the APHA website is going to be very important over the coming months. <http://apha.defra.gov.uk/vet-gateway/surveillance/experts/parasitology.htm> Another case of leishmaniosis was reported in an untraveled dog in the UK. <https://bvajournals.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/vetr.2760> This one was living in a household with a positive dog and horizontal transmission through close contact seems very likely. Incidents like this are going to become more likely as more positive dogs are imported into the UK. Vets should now consider *Leishmania* as a differential in dogs with relevant clinical signs even if there is no history of travel.



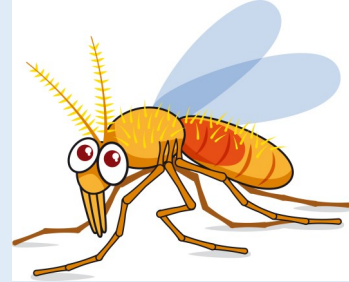
Prof. Hany Elsheikha
Head of ESCCAP UK & Ireland



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Exotic Diseases

Exotic diseases such as *Linguatula serrata*, *Brucella canis* and leishmaniosis have been found in untraveled dogs in the UK and it is vital that vets and nurses remain vigilant for clinical signs that might indicate exotic parasite infection and that relevant screening tests are carried out.



Sandflies are the vectors for *Leishmania* spp.

ESCCAP UK & Ireland continues to recommend four key steps (the 'Four Pillars') in all imported dogs. These are:

1. Checking for ticks and subsequent identification.
2. Treating dogs with praziquantel within 30 days of entering the UK in addition to the compulsory treatment, and treating for ticks if a tick treatment is not in place.
3. Recognising clinical signs relevant to diseases present in the countries of origin.
4. Screening for *Leishmania*, heartworm, *Brucella canis* and exotic tick-borne pathogen in imported dogs.

We are often asked about routine screening for parasites in imported dogs and which tests we would recommend. Dogs imported into the UK we would recommend the following tests:

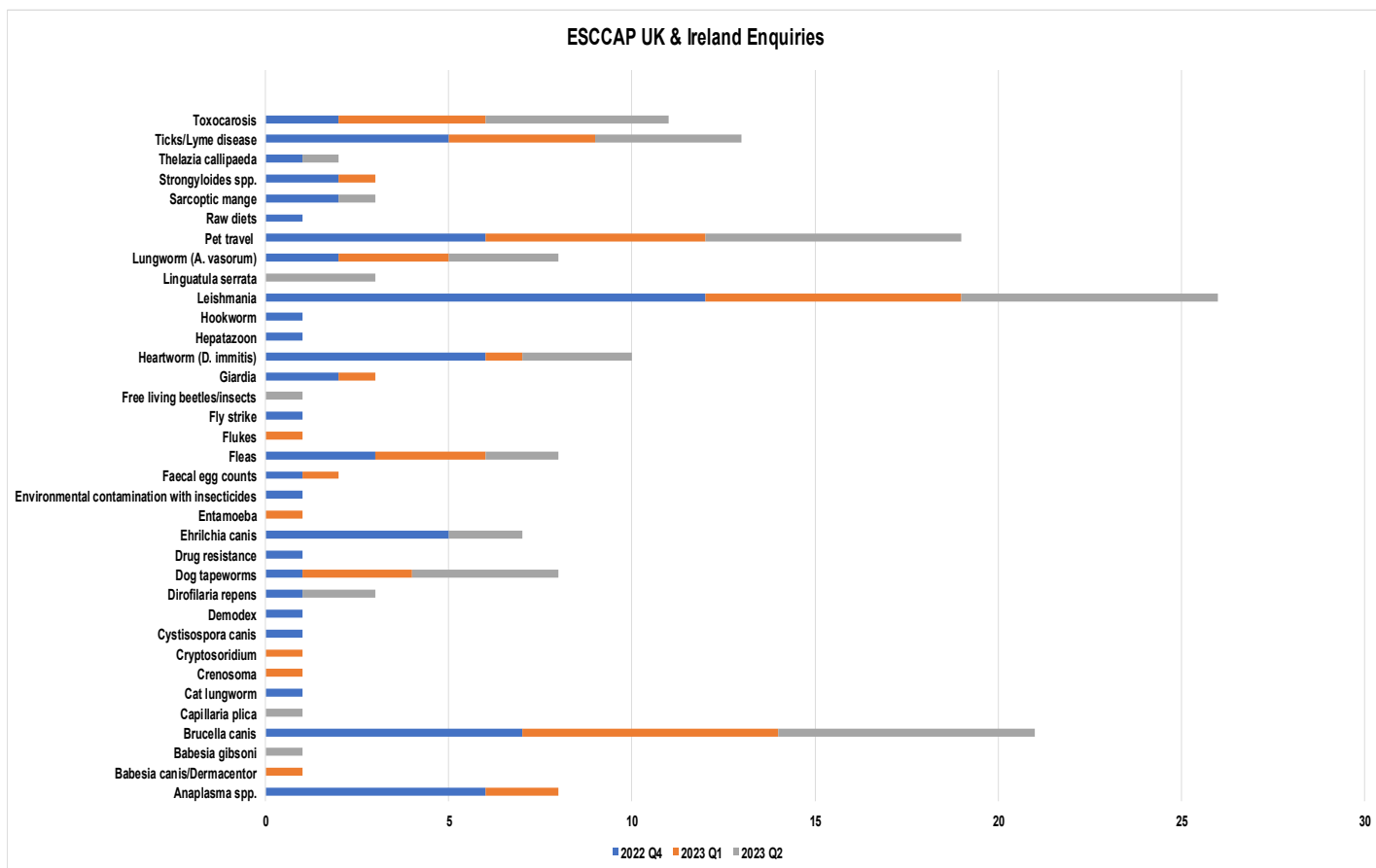
- *Leishmania*—Quantitative serology, PCR
- Heartworm—Antigen blood test, Knott's test
- *Ehrlichia canis* and *Anaplasma*—Serology, PCR
- *Hepatozoon canis*—Blood smear, PCR
- *Babesia*—PCR
- *Brucella canis*—consult you external lab for suitable test.

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While every care is taken to ensure accuracy, ESCCAP UK & Ireland cannot accept liability for errors or omissions. Front cover photo: *Linguatula serrata* courtesy of Pedro Serra, Nationwide Labs. Email: info@esccapuk.org.uk / Website: [Homepage](#) | [ESCCAP UK & Ireland](#)

ESCCAP UK & Ireland Enquiries

ESCCAP UK & Ireland has continued to receive a large number of queries from Veterinary professionals and the public regarding a wide range of subjects in the last 12 months with *Leishmania* still featuring heavily along with our first *Brucella canis*, *Thelazia callipaeda* and *Linguatula serrata* cases.



If anyone has any ideas to promote increased parasite testing in practice, please get in touch. We welcome any query, large or small, via our website at [Homepage | ESCCAP UK & Ireland](#)

The newsletter aims to keep veterinary practices, industry and academia up to date with our activities so if there is anything you would like us to include, feel free to contact us at www.esccapuk.org or email me at info@esccapuk.org.uk. Similarly, if you would like to contribute a case report or inform us about anything in relation to our next forecast, please let us know.

ESCCAP UK & Ireland website Forum

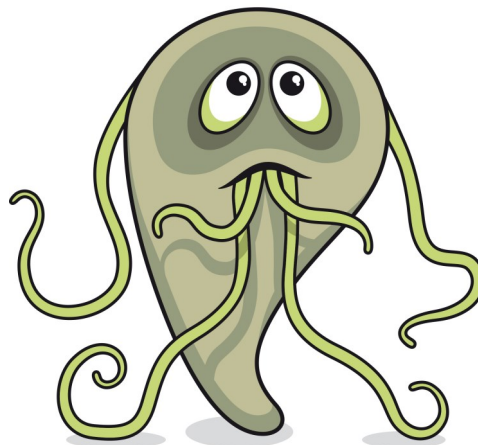
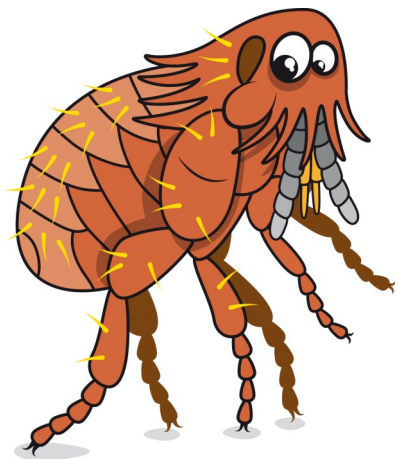


If you have any issues you'd like to discuss surrounding parasites, control protocols, pet travel and importation, or post images of parasites for colleagues and ESCCAP UK & Ireland experts to identify, then please visit the forum and start a discussion.



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