

Studies on the occurrence of lung worm infection in the reindeer in Finnish Eastern Lapland

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The aim of this study was to investigate the occurrence of subclinical lung worm infection in domesticated reindeer. 91 faecal samples from clinically healthy animals were collected in the spring and analyzed by parasitological methods. The animals were kept in an enclosure (43 reindeer) or tethered on the yard (48 reindeer). 79 of the reindeer were treated with anthelmintics (Ivermectin) in preceding autumn. Of the non-treated 12 reindeer, 10 were tethered and 2 were maintained in the enclosure. The results of the studies are presented in the tables I and II.

The studies showed that 10 reindeer were infected with lung worms. Three animals were infected with *Dictyocaulus* sp. and in four cases *Elaphostrongylus rangiferi* could be isolated. In the three reindeer the nematode could not be identified.

Of 79 reindeer treated with Ivermectin 6 (= 7.6 %) were infected while in 4 animals of the 12 nontreated reindeer, (= 33.3 %) lung worms could be isolated.

Table 1. The occurrence of lung worm larvae in faecal samples of 79 clinically healthy reindeer successfully treated previously with anthelmintics.

	Number of healthy reindeer	Number of infected reindeer
All animals	73 (92.4 %)	6 (7.6 %)
Reindeer kept in enclosure	36 (94.7 %)	2 (5.3 %)
Tethered reindeer	37 (91.2 %)	4 (9.8 %)

Table 2. The occurrence of lung worm larvae in faecal samples of 12 clinically healthy reindeer not successfully treated with anthelmintics.

	Number of healthy reindeer	Number of healthy reindeer
All animals	8 (66.7 %)	4 (33.3 %)
Reindeer kept in enclosure	2 (100 %)	0 (0 %)
Tethered reindeer	6 (60 %)	4 (40 %)