Efficiency of parenteral and oral ivermectin treatment on parasites in reindeer

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Summary: The effect of subcutaneously and orally administered ivermectin on ecto- and endoparasites were studied in 93 reindeer. Ivermectin was given 200 ug/kg in late December subcutaneously to 46 adult reindeer and 12 calves and the pasta formula orally to 25 adults and 10 calves. Twenty five reindeer (18 ad and 7 juv) acted as untreated controls. In April, the reindeer treated with ivermectin harboured no larvae of the warble fly (Oedemagena tarandi) while the prevalence of the larvae in the control group was 92 %. Faecal samples from 49 of the animals were examined for eggs of gastro-intestinal nematodes. The prevalence of nematodes in the subcutaneously and orally treated animals was 26.9 % (7/26) and 76.5 % (13/17) respectively. Both formulas of ivermectin are highly effective against larvae of the warble fly but ivermectin injected subcutaneously seemed to be more effective against the gastro-intestinal nematodes (p < 0.05 in chi-square test) than the pasta administered orally.