

IMPORTANCE OF LUNGWORM INFECTIONS IN FARMED RED DEER (*CERVUS ELAPHUS* L.)

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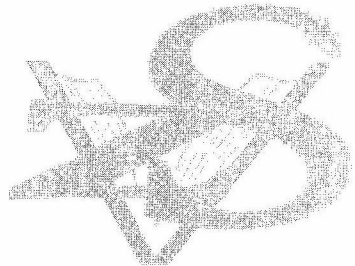
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Lungworm infections are relatively common in deer species. In free-range animals lungworms usually cause a mild disease that is diagnosed only during evisceration procedure. On the other hand, in farmed conditions with larger agglomeration of animals per surface units and more stressful breeding system, lungworms can pose a serious threat to the profitability of a specific farm, mainly through decreased productivity and calves mortality.

During the winter of 2012 an outbreak of disease followed by coughing, weakness and mortality stroked a herd of red deer calves on a farm near Čazma town. Twenty out of 80 animals died within three weeks. Necropsy and coprology revealed lungworm infection morphologically similar to *Dictyocaulus viviparus*. A group of 10 calves was treated subcutaneously with 0.2 mg/kg of ivermectine (Iverktin 1%, Genera) and 40 mg/kg of fluorphenicol (Floron, Krka), left in separate paddock and controlled after 1 week (coprologically). After that, the rest of the animals were treated in a same way. In the meantime five more animals died (four non-treated and one treated, which died due to severe emaciation).

Lungworm infections can pose a serious threat to farm profitability especially when combined with poor preparation for winter period, and prolonged and cold winter. In order to reduce the risks it is important to deworm all hinds after calving or during weaning, all stags during velveting or hard antler removal, and all calves during the autumn period. Other measures include separation of paddocks according to risk rate, inclusion of grasses with known antiparasitic effect (i.e. *Sulla* spp.) and providing optimal nutrition especially during the autumn period.

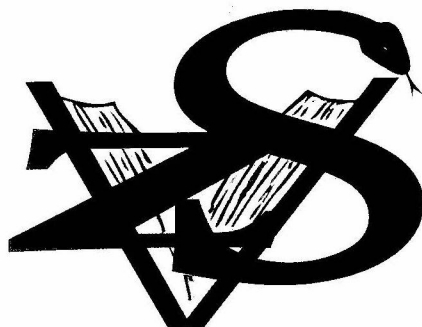




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