

## **7. Summary**

Examination of the parasite fauna of stray cats and their treatment with Selamectin and Praziquantel.

One hundred and one stray cats were examined between March 1<sup>st</sup> and September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2000. All animals originated from the administrative district of Neustrelitz, in particular from the animal shelter Neustrelitz. Clinical and coprological examinations were conducted. Apart from ecto- and endoparasites the following parameters were recorded: weight, nutritional state, pulse, respiration, body temperature, gender, skin or hair lesions as well as apparent clinical signs. Faeces and hair samples as well as secretion from the ear, skin scrapings, and individual parasites were documented and further investigated in the Institute for Parasitology and Tropical Veterinary Medicine of the Free University of Berlin.

From the 101 animals 45 were male cats, the remaining ones were females. From the first examination 86.1 % had parasites. Endoparasites were detected in 58.4 % of all examined animals, with proportions of *Toxocara cati* (44.6 %), *Toxascaris leonina* (9.9 %), and hookworms (2.0 %) and *Capillaria* spp. with 1.0 %, respectively. Of cestodes 10.9 % were *Taenia* spp. and 1.0 % *Dipylidium caninum*. Protozoa (*Cystoisospora felis*) were detected in 2.0 % of all samples. Infections with one endoparasite only occurred in 44.6 %, whereas 12.9 % had infections with several endoparasites. Of all cats 82.2 % had ectoparasites, with respective percentages of *Felicola substratus* (56.4 %) *Ctenocephalides felis* (22.8 %), *Otodectes cynotis* (16.8 %), *Cheyletiella blakei* (2.0 %) and *Ixodes ricinus* (5.9 %). Out of these infections 46.5 % were mono-infections, whereas 27.7 % had poly-infections. Selamectin and Praziquantel were used for treatment. In case of tapeworm infections a Praziquantel preparation 0,1 ml per kilogram of cat weight, was used to counteract the infection. The remaining parasites were removed with a Selamectin preparation (a dose of 45 mg for each animal), applied directly on the skin. Within a time lapse of one to eight weeks (AFTER TREATMENT) 66 cats were re-examined. Only 7.6 % of all cats still showed up with parasitological infections. The other recorded parameters changed as well.

The nutritional state improved in 29 cats and the general health state was found to be very good in 24 cats during the final examination. In conclusion, stray cats should be kept close under control at feeding places. Impending castrations should also be used for parasitological examinations, allowing bi-annual control campaigns against parasites. The measures are expected to further reduce the infection risk as well for the human population as for the cats.