

RESUMO - HELMINTOLOGIA

PREVALENCE OF INTESTINAL HELMINTHS IN WORKING HORSES OF THE 4TH MOUNTED POLICE REGIMENT OF THE MILITARY BRIGADE (40 RPMON) OF PORTO ALEGRE - RS

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The occurrence of gastrointestinal parasites in horses constitutes a significant sanitary problem, impacting animal welfare and the performance of animals used in operational activities. This study aimed to evaluate the prevalence of endoparasites in horses belonging to the 4th Mounted Police Regiment of the Military Brigade of Rio Grande do Sul, located in Porto Alegre. Horses are fundamental in visible policing, riot control, and events. Primarily using the Brazilian Sport Horse breed, these animals undergo specialized training to ensure both strength and docility. The regiment has a force of 110 horses. Fecal samples were collected from 35 horses (32% of the herd). Parasitological analyses were performed using the Willis-Mollay, Gordon & Whitlock, and Robert & Sullivan techniques. The prevalence of positive samples was 40%

(14/35), with 37% for strongylid eggs and 2.8% for *Parascaris equorum* eggs. Infective larvae of *Strongylus edentatus*, *Cylicocyclus* spp., and *Gyalocephalus* spp. were identified using the Robert & Sullivan techniques. The results obtained reinforce the importance of continuous parasitological monitoring, combined with the adoption of evidence-based parasite control strategies, such as the selective use of anthelmintics. Correctly identifying parasitic genera allows for targeted interventions, reducing selection pressure for resistance and contributing to the effectiveness of treatments, improving the health status of animals, and optimizing performance in operational activities.

Palavras-chave: parasite control; helminthiasis; infective larvae.