ABSTRACT

The objective of this study was to determine the prevalence of zoonotic intestinal parasites in pet dogs and their owners in Cairo and Giza Governorates, Egypt. A total of 395 fecal samples collected from pet dogs beside 145 stool samples from humans were subjected to macroscopic and microscopic examination using different flotation and sedimentation techniques. The overall prevalence of enteric parasites in the examined dogs was 25.6%. Higher prevalence was shown in police dogs (43.3%) followed by pet shop dogs (30.8%) and finally in household dogs (13.8%). *Cryptosporidium* was the most frequent parasite detected in the examined dogs (10.1%) and humans (10.3%), whereas *Giardia* was the lowest one (0.5% and 2.8% respectively). In addition, *Entamoeba histolytica/dispar* was found at a rate of 5.6% (dogs) and 7.6% (humans). *Trichuris vulpis*, *Toxascaris leonina* and *Toxocara canis* were identified only from the examined dogs at a rate of 3.3%, 5.8% and 0.3% respectively. Young age (<6 months), female sex, local breed, undercooked feeding, outdoor housing and irregular de-worming were significantly associated with increased prevalence of the identified parasites in dogs. Regarding humans, the highest prevalence of enteric parasites was found in the age group between 5-10 years old (60%). Gender did not affect the risk of an infection in the study population. On conclusion, parasitological results in this study clearly highlight the significant role of pet dogs as a host for several species of enteric parasites, therefore preventive measures should be taken to avoid the environmental contamination and infection of both man and animals.