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EPIDEMIOLOGICAL IMPORTANCE OF GREEN AREAS AND PUBLIC PLACES CONTAMINATED WITH CANINE FECES IN URBAN ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS

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A continuous increase of dogs population, both strays and pets, presents a permanent epidemiological problem in urban environmental conditions worldwide. These animals permanently contaminate parks, public places, green areas and etc. with faeces. In addition to its unpleasant appearance and odor, dog feces is a high epidemiological danger. Dogs are carriers and hosts of a large number of zoonotic parasitic species the eggs of which are eliminated by faeces and contaminate urban areas. Those parasites are transmitted to humans via faecal contamination, especially to children playing at those dirty places. The most dangerous and also the most common helminth eggs are *Toxocara canis, Ancylostomidae spp., Echinoccocus granulosus, Dipylidium caninum* and protozoas *Giardia lamblia/intestinalis*. The aim of this study is to present the most important species of dog parasites and their impact on human health in urban areas, as well as the possible solutions to this problem. *Acta Medica Medianae 2017;56(3):88-93.*

Key words: *epidemiology, dogs, parasites, zoonoses, environmental,contamination*