



The Long-Standing Problem of Parasitic Diseases in Zoo Animals: Current Challenges and Searching for Solutions

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Deadline for manuscript
submissions:

31 December 2024

Message from the Guest Editor

Dear Colleagues,

Parasitism is a widespread biological phenomenon in nature, and has also forever accompanied life in zoological gardens. The negative effects of parasitic infections in zoo animals could be numerous: the development of secondary deficiency and other infections, an impairment of reproduction, and a risk of death in cases of massive and dangerous parasitoses. Moreover, zoos are places where wild animals come into close contact with humans. This significantly increases the risk of the spread of parasitic zoonoses, posing a threat to the health of the animals themselves, staff of the zoos, and visitors.

The fight against parasitoses in zoos faces various challenges such as deficiencies in preventive programs; untimely or inaccurate diagnosis; parasite import via intermediates, paratenic hosts, or mechanical vectors; persistent infections; the need to adapt the antiparasitic treatment for a specific animal species, the development of resistance to drugs; and others. Success in this fight requires the united efforts of all zoo professionals.

Let us do our part for a better future for animals in captivity!

Mariana Panayotova-Pencheva

Guest editor

