

## PARASITIC PROTOZOANS IN LIVESTOCK AND PETS IN ESTONIA. REVIEW

Brian Lassen, Heli Talvik

*Estonian University of Life Sciences, Kreutzwaldi 62, 51014 Tartu, Estonia,*

*Tel. (+372) 5288411, e-mail: brian.lassen@gmail.com*

**Summary.** Valuable scientific knowledge on parasitic protozoans in Estonian livestock and companion animals is currently disappearing and has been unavailable to the international scientific community due to location or language barriers. Extracts of relevant publications from MEDLINE, AGRIS, the library of the Estonian University of Life Sciences, and largely personal collections, in English, Estonian and Russian, have been summarized for this review. Prevalence studies of *Eimeria*, *Sarcocystis*, *Babesia*, and *Neospora* were discovered in cattle, together with smaller investigations of *Cryptosporidium*. Pigs and sheep have been studied for coccidia, while chicken were only examined for *Eimeria*, and included the possible discovery of the species of *E. sporadica*. Cattle and chicken were subjects of drug trials in attempts of controlling *Sarcocystis* and *Eimeria*. Primary hosts such as dogs have been studied for *Sarcocystis*, *Cystoisospora* and *Toxoplasma*, while cats have only been in focus for the latter parasite. Though human and animal infections indicate that several of the parasites are currently well established, and some increasing, the previous investigations do not indicate any serious actions taken to limit the parasites.

**Key words:** *Sarcocystis*, *Eimeria*, *Cryptosporidium*, *Isospora*, *Toxoplasma*, Estonia.