

Strongyloidiasis in semi-captive baboons at Knowsley Safari, Prescott, UK

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As part of their drive through safari experience, Knowsley Safari (KS) offers its visitors a close-up encounter with their colony of olive baboons (*Papio anubis*) from the safety of their vehicles. Exiting vehicles, however, are sometimes contaminated with baboon faeces, posing a small health hazard. Coinciding with an animal welfare check, a coprological survey of baboon stool, both obtained from sleeping areas and cars, was conducted. Faecal material was examined by standard parasitological methods inclusive of: QUIK-CHEK RDT (*Giardia*), Kato-Katz coproscopy (*Trichuris*) and charcoal culture (*Strongyloides*). Across a four day period, a total of 2,662 vehicles were examined with just under 700 stools obtained. Some 11.4% of vehicles were contaminated with faecal material. Overall prevalence of giardiasis was 37.4%, trichuriasis was 48.0% and strongyloidiasis was 13.7%. Since no faecal cysts of *Giardia* could be seen by microscopy, alongside very low levels of DNA detected by faecal PCR, our RDTs results were judged misleading. Further DNA characterization confirmed the presence of *Trichuris trichiura* and *Strongyloides fuelleborni*. The latter observation represents this species' most northern report of natural transmission. To minimise any public health risk, a future blanket administration of anthelmintic(s) is recommended, with later coprological inspection(s) to ascertain reinfection levels.