

The case of babesiosis in farmed wolf (*Canis lupus* L)¹

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ABSTRACT. There was recognised the case of canine babesiosis in farmed wolf (*Canis lupus*) in Białowieża, north-eastern Poland. The typical symptoms were observed in animal - depression, asitia, and haematocyturia. The treatment with antibiotics gave positive results. It was the first observation of babesiosis in wolf in Poland.

Key words: wolf, babesiosis, Poland

Since 1998, wolf (*Canis lupus*) is in Poland highly protected species. Wolves are spread in the eastern, north-eastern and southern part of the country, mainly in the Bieszczady Mountains, Mazurian Lakeland and in Białowieża Primeval Forest [1]. Apart free living wolves, there is the number of individuals breed in zoological gardens and private bestiarries. Wolves are natural hosts and potential reservoir for a wide range of parasite species. There were identified many nematodes and cestodes, among them dangerous for dog and human health: *Toxocara canis* (Werner, 1782), *Dipylidium caninum* (Linnaeus, 1785) and *Echinococcus granulosus* (Batsch, 1786), as well as protozoa parasites – *Cryptosporidium parvum* Tyzzer, 1912 oocysts and *Giardia* spp. [2, 3]. However, any blood parasites have been noted in wolves so far. In the Animal Farming Centre "Bożena and Jan Walencik", located near Białowieża Primeval Forest, north-eastern Poland, in one year's old wolf (male) the babesiosis was recognized. The animal was infected in the latter part of June and beginning of July in year 2002. The wolf was accustomed and with owners often walked over the grasslands; after this walking, engorged ticks females were found on the animal body many times. The disease has been diagnosed on the base of symptoms – there were observed in infected wolf typical symptoms of canine babesio-

sis: fever, changed behaviour, depression, asitia, and after some days haematocyturia. After manifestation of haematocyturia the treatment was began. The following drugs were applied: Fatrybanil (intramuscularly), Catosal 10%, Betamox. The treatment had positive results and wolf recovered in 2 days.

It is the first observation of babesiosis in wolf in Poland and other middle-European countries, and it suggests, that wildlife carnivores can play the role of natural reservoir for canine babesiosis, moreover, that canine babesiosis has been noted in dogs from Białowieża village many times.

References

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