Intestinal parasites in camel calves

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Aims: To obtain knowledge about parasites in Bactrian camel calves in Sweden.

Introduction
Intestinal parasites were studied in young Bactrian camel calves (Camelus bactrianius) on a farm situated on the island of Öland in Sweden. The herd is the largest camel herd in Scandinavia and comprises Bactrian camels (n=30), beef cattle (n=70) and llamas (n=20).

Materials and Methods
All camel calves (n=7) born 2009 – March to May - were sampled each week from birth to 12 weeks of age, directly from the rectum. In total, 81 faecal samples were examined by Stoll’s technique, by larval cultures (nematodes), by immuno-fluorescens (protozoa) and by ELISA (rotavirus group A).

Results
- *Eimeria* spp – small types - was the most prevalent finding (45/67) and opg ranged between 50 – 66 000.
- Prevalent findings were *E cameli* – the large *Eimeria* - (41/67, 50-4400 opg), Trichostrongylidae (18/68, 50-600 epg) and *Giardia* sp (28/79).
- Rare findings were *Trichuris* sp (4/68) and *Cryptosporidium* sp (1/80).
- *Haemonchus* sp and rotavirus were not found.
- All calves were healthy throughout the study period.

Conclusion
The calves excreted *Eimeria* oocysts between 40 and 90 days of age, in uni- or bimodal peaks. One single calf excreted a major part of the oocysts. The parasites did not cause clinical symptoms.