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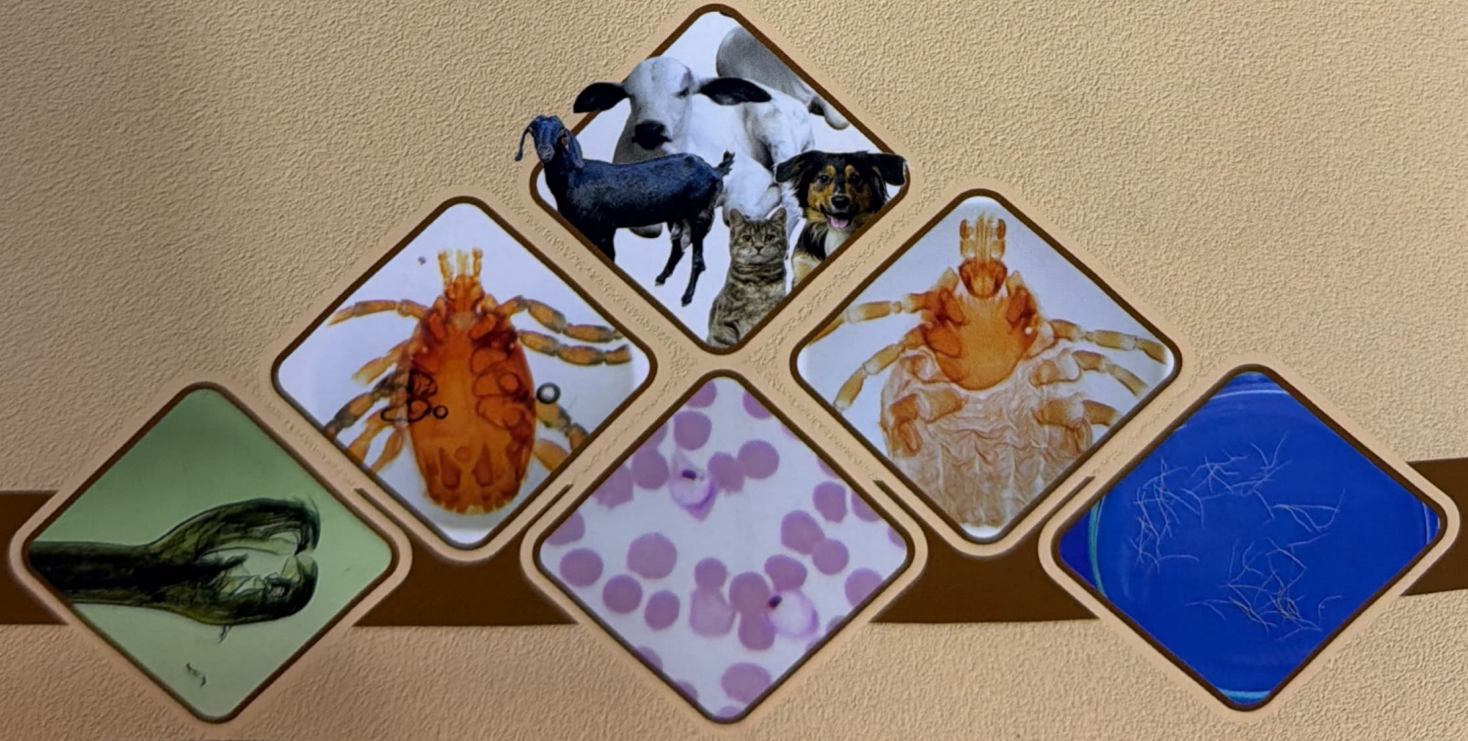

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PS-IV-9

AN OCCURRENCE OF *Laemobothrion maximum* IN A BLACK KITE

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A black kite, a medium-sized bird of prey scientifically named *Milvus migrans* and known for its brown plumage and forked tail, was presented to the Veterinary Clinical Complex, Veterinary College Bidar, with a history of injury and lice infestation. On external examination, lice were observed rapidly moving on the feathers and collected for identification. The large lice were brought to the Department of Veterinary Parasitology, Veterinary College, Bidar. After processing the lice according to standard procedure, they were identified as *Laemobothrion maximum* based on morphometry and phenotypic characteristics. This species is one of the largest known bird lice, measuring approximately 9–12 mm in length. The louse has a large, trapezoidal head with segmented antennae and a wide oral opening. Its body is fully segmented, densely covered with fine hairs, highly chitinized, and shows evident pigmented areas (tergal sclerites) on the abdominal segments. Each of the three pairs of legs ends with two claws for clinging to feathers. *Laemobothrion maximum* is an obligate parasite of raptors, and this marks the first report of its presence in Karnataka. Barcoding of the lice is underway for molecular confirmation.

Keywords: Black kite, *Milvus migrans,* lice infestation, *Laemobothrion maximum*

PS-IV-10

GASTROINTESTINAL PARASITISM IN RESCUED CHEETAHS (*Acinonyx jubatus*): A SIX- MONTH OBSERVATIONAL STUDY

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This case study reports on a six-month copro-parasitological surveillance of rescued cheetahs (*Acinonyx jubatus*) housed at the Cheetah Conservation and Research Centre of the Greens Zoological Rescue and Rehabilitation Centre (GZRRC). The study aimed to monitor gastrointestinal parasite

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prevalence as part of routine health screening. All faecal samples from cheetahs received between January and June 2025 were analyzed using standard parasitological methods. Most of the screened individuals were newly rescued. Seven types of parasite ova were identified: *Toxascaris leonina*, *Ancylostoma* spp., *Uncinaria* spp., *Physaloptera* spp., *Taenia* spp., *Cystoisospora* spp., and *Toxocara cati*. *Toxascaris leonina* and *Ancylostoma* spp. were most prevalent, indicating a high nematode burden. Adult *T. leonina* and *Physaloptera* spp. were also recovered and morphologically identified. These findings underscore the importance of systematic parasitological screening in rescued carnivores for early detection, timely deworming, and reduced zoonotic risk. Additionally, surveillance data can guide preventive healthcare and facilitate smoother acclimatization during rehabilitation.

Key words: *Acinonyx jubatus*; Gastrointestinal parasites; copro-parasitological surveillance; Parasite prevalence; Wildlife parasitology

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PS-IV-11

OCCURRENCE OF HUMAN OCULAR DIROFILARIOSIS - AN EMERGING ZOONOTIC CONCERN

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The filarial nematode *Dirofilaria* naturally infects dogs, felines, foxes, beavers, and other animals, with humans considered accidental hosts. The genus *Dirofilaria* comprises 40 species, of which *D. repens* and *D. immitis* are most commonly reported as mosquito-borne zoonotic diseases in humans. *D. repens* is the most prevalent and is especially common in the western coastal districts of Kerala and Karnataka. A 58-year-old woman from Davanagere, Karnataka, was admitted to a local hospital with pain, redness, and swelling in her left upper eyelid for one week. An ophthalmologist detected a live, coiled worm in her conjunctival cavity, which was surgically removed. The Department of Veterinary Parasitology, Veterinary College, Shivamogga, received the worm and peripheral blood smears for further identification. The worm measured 8.9 cm in length and appeared thread-like. After 48 hours in lactophenol, additional morphological features were examined. Stereoscopic evaluation showed rounded anterior and posterior ends and distinctive longitudinal striations on the cuticle. The anterior end exhibited a small oral aperture surrounded by petal-shaped papillae. The nematode possessed a muscular and glandular oesophagus, and the uterus contained unique tubular caeca connected to the ovary. Microfilariae were absent in the coiled uterus, and the vulval orifice was near the anterior end at the junction with the glandular section. No microfilariae were found in the peripheral blood smear. Although the patient was not a resident of a dirofilariasis-endemic area, she reported recent travel to a coastal region known for *D. repens* infections in dogs. Based on morphological features, the nematode was identified as *Dirofilaria repens*.
