



SDI FINAL EVALUATION FORM 1.1

PART 1:

Journal Name:	International Journal of TROPICAL DISEASE & Health
Manuscript Number:	Ms_IJTDH_25331
Title of the Manuscript:	Parasitic zoonoses from dogs: how common are they in Zambia
Type of Article:	Minireview paper

PART 2:

FINAL EVALUATOR'S comments on revised paper (if any)	Authors' response to final evaluator's comments
The authors present a not too clear Minireview of zoonotic infections in dogs. As you may gather from my observations, there are too many misleading or incorrect concepts and questions in this paper, probably due to poor English language. The dog and human infections are treated together, making it confusing at times to interpret the meaning of what is said. It would have been more appropriate to treat the infection of dogs in one subdivision and infection of humans in another subdivision, with defining headlines. If this is a MS dealing on parasitic dog infections, I do not see the need to present other species of parasites, as in <i>Cryptosporidium</i> . Or <i>Echinococcus</i>"giving an update and creating awareness"...	The dog and human infections have been separated into subdivisions identified by different paragraphs. Sub headlines could not be used because some aspects were overlapping and were therefore discussed in one paragraph.
Comment 1 : Are you sure? How does close proximity of humans maintain the transmission cycle of these parasites?? I don't know that humans are necessary links to maintain life cycles of parasites of dogs. None of the parasites in this Minireview require humans to complete their life cycles.	I agree, humans are not necessary to complete the life cycle of the parasites under review. The sentence was meant to indicate that, because dogs live in close proximity to humans, zoonotic infections can <u>easily</u> be transmitted from dogs to humans either through contact with dog faeces containing infective stages of the parasites (faecal-oral transmission) and via vectors. The sentence has been rephrased to reflect this. Lines 27-30.
Comment 2:Are you sure? What kind of transmission you mean? Humans become infected when ingesting infective stages of the parasites, be it from the environment, the soil, an intermediate host, etc. could it be: "a close contact between infective stages of parasites from dogs..." I find your English language poor, confusing and misleading. Also, you should have treated parasites of dogs in a subdivision and disease in humans caused by parasites of dogs in another subdivision. Otherwise, all your terminologies become very confusing, inexact and unsuited for publication.	The sentence has been rephrased. Direct contact with animals may lead to contamination of hands with the infective stages of the parasite. Without proper hand washing, this can lead to infection through ingestion when an individual touches and eats food The specific dog and human infections have been separated and are discussed in different paragraphs
Comment 3: Again, be careful. Comment 4: and dog fur.	Faecal-oral transmission has been inserted to specify the type of transmission. Thank you Line 36-38. Dog fur has been inserted, line 45.



SDI FINAL EVALUATION FORM 1.1

Comment 5: How can rain transmit diseases? Could it be “spreading”? “Concentrating infective stages in certain soiled areas”? other words?	Rain does not transmit disease. In this context, it means rain, especially heavy rains can cause contamination of drinking water sources. The water runoff carries with it contaminated soils into water sources. When humans drink the contaminated water without treating it, they can get infected. The sentence has been rephrased, line 45-47.
Comment 6: Suggestion: Why not start discussing thoroughly (what kind of patients could be at risk of infection? (HIV+), how was <i>C. canis</i> differentiated from other species? What should be the preventive measures?) <i>C. canis</i> from dogs, since this is the reason for this Minireview, and then continue with other species from other animals (that have little to do here)? So as not to loose focus.	The paragraphs have been rearranged. <i>Cryptosporidium</i> species from other animals have been deleted to focus on dogs. Lines 65-113.
Comment 7: Since this Minireview is on parasites of dogs, does this refer to management in dogs? Do dogs experience disease? Comment 8: in Comment 9: or humans Comment 10: in immuno-competent hosts Comment 11: already infective when excreted in faeces and	The whole section on <i>Cryptosporidium</i> has been rearranged into specific paragraphs starting with human infection followed by dog infections. Management has also been placed in appropriate sections, lines 65-113. “in” inserted”, line 105. Human aspect is discussed separately, lines 89-95. “Immune-competent hosts” inserted, line 107. “already infective when excreted in faeces” inserted, Line 110
Comment 12: to what?	Chemical disinfection, line 110
Comment 13: None has been proven effective against Crypto.	It has been reported that 50% ammonia, 3% hydrogen peroxide, 10% formalin, chlorine dioxide reduce oocyst concentration when used to clean surfaces (O’Donoghue, 1995).
Comment 14: No drug has been tested effective against Cryptosporidium; nitaxozanide may reduce the number of diarrheic episodes only, providing some relief to the patient. Comment 15: In that particular group (HIV/AIDS) and in general Comment 16: and often handwashing Comment 17: With Comment 18: Morphologically similar	I agree, the sentence has been rephrased to reflect this, lines 90-92. Words have been inserted, line 94 “Often” inserted, line 93 “with” inserted, line 95. “Morphologically” inserted, line 120



SDI FINAL EVALUATION FORM 1.1

Comment 19: Do you mean clinical disease? Or simply infection with Giardia?	Infection with <i>Giardia</i>, line 136.
Comment 20: Only one publication from Thailand positively identified Giardia from dogs in space around a temple where dogs roamed freely, infective to humans, but I misplaced the reference.	Thank you for the suggestion. The publication was referred to. Lines 138-140.
Comment 21: Are we talking of human to human transmissions? since you go from one host to another, maybe it is convenient to make it clear. Otherwise, it could read: humans that acquire Giardia infections (from dogs)...	<i>Giardia</i> infections in dogs (lines 131-154) have been separated from those in humans (lines 156-170).
Comment 22: As suggested before, why not separate parasitic diseases of dogs in a subdivision and the disease caused in humans in another subdivision? Toxocara canis should really be the star in this minireview; Cryptosporidium canis is important for immunocompromised individuals, and of lesser importance Dipylidium, Echinococcus, etc. Jumping from dog to human disease without proper clarification confuses and misleads the uninformed reader and steals seriousness to the paper.	Dog and human infections have been separated in different paragraphs.
Comment 23: Re-)infection (in humans) is not the same as disease, therefore in humans it may not be treatment failure but due to the ubiquitous presence of Giardia cysts that facilitates frequent re-infections. Is this a matter of interpretation?	Sentence has been rephrased, Lines 165-170.
Comment 24: Again, are we talking of human giardiasis acquired from humans? Please explain. In so many studies with human subjects, control individuals have equal or higher percentages of infection than the study patients, that treatment of infection without disease is not even considered.	Section has been rephrased, Lines 165-170.



SDI FINAL EVALUATION FORM 1.1

Comment 25: “Reducing and preventing reinfections in dogs and preventing, if any, infection in humans.” Could this be a cleared sentence?	Dog infections have been separated from human infections and so was the treatment/prevention, lines 131-170.
Comment 26: This has not been proven. Comment 27: Intermediate host...	Personal hygiene such as proper hand washing may assist in preventing transmission of orally transmitted infections which will in turn lead to reduced infections Intermediate host inserted, line 174
Comment 28: How? Where is the vector? Do you mean “act as a reservoir of infection”	Sentence has been rephrased, line 183.
Comment 29: Source is singular. Do you mean reservoir?.. Comment 30: For other dogs as well as humans... Comment 31: the vector is present as in endemic areas...	Reservoir, line 183 “other dogs as well as humans” inserted, line 183. Sentence has been rephrased, line 183.
Comment 32: Do dogs provide a source for vectors? Grammatical construction of sentences. Do you mean:...providing the right vector is not only at hand, but in the right conditions to complete its life cycle and transmit the disease?	Sentence has been rephrased, line 185
Comment 33: May be (two different words) Comment 34: Spelling Comment 35: Twice first: once should be enough	The word has been corrected, line 188. The word <i>rhodesiense</i> has been corrected, line 192. The second “first” has been deleted, line 192.



SDI FINAL EVALUATION FORM 1.1

Comment 36: Trypanosoma rhodesiense infections. ...? Comment 37: In humans? In dogs? In dogs and humans...?	<i>Trypanosoma rhodesiense</i> has been inserted, line 204. In humans. Sentence has been rephrased to include humans, line 205-206.
Comment 38: Some helminths? Could you say: “When puppies are not treated promptly, some helminths.....”? Comment 39: Blood loss..	Sentence has been rephrased. Line 209 “Blood loss” inserted, line 213.
Comment 40: Allow me to cite the last paragraph in a recent publication: “Recognition of toxocariasis as a common parasitic disease in the US and possibly an even greater health problem in developing countries is a first important step to national and international efforts to combat this neglected infection of poverty.” Hotez P. PLoS Negl Dis 2009; 3(3<9:e400. The reason will be clear if you take the time to read this publication. As the aim of this Minireview states: giving an update and creating awareness, T. canis infection in humans stands as probably number one in the list of human Neglected Tropical Diseases.	I read the article and the contents were taken into consideration.
Comment 41: Epidemiologically, and probably not in domestic dogs, there are other paratenic hosts more important than slugs, like small mammals (mice and other small rodents) and birds infected with T. canis larvae.	Other paratenic hosts have been included, line 219
Comment 42: Your usage of words do not denote clear concepts, since you lack specific descriptions. Undercooked or raw meat, providing it is meat from paratenic hosts, that is, it contains encapsulated larvae of T. canis.	Sentence has been rephrased, lines 232-235
Comment 43: By discussing the infection of humans together with dog infection, you convey the mistaken idea that humans develop the adult worms, just like the dog. One has to read further and then the reader, a student maybe or an uninformed person, may not understand what do you mean.	Dog and human infections have been separated into different paragraphs, lines 219-229 and lines 231-260.



SDI FINAL EVALUATION FORM 1.1

Comment 44: What about neurotoxocariasis?	Neurotoxocariasis has been incorporated, lines 239-241
Comment 45: Visceral larva migrans? Why the “and”? what does larva migrans mean to you?	This has been corrected, line 237
Comment 46: Not only. What about hypereosinophilia, which is a highly suspected sign in the absence of any other cause for hypereosinophilia? Also, cough, sleep disturbance, irritability...	Other signs of covert toxocariasis have been added, line 239.
Comment 47: Could this sentence read: “Although most human infections are usually asymptomatic, some individuals....”	Sentence has been rephrased, lines 241-244.
Comment 48: Very important to describe the symptoms in this systemic disease, since you are already mentioning all other presentations of VLM.	Symptoms have been described, lines 242-243.
Comment 49: spelling	The spelling is correct (UK English) and has not been changed, line 243.
Comment 50: very rarely T. canis larvae affect both eyes.	Sentence has been rephrased, line 244



SDI FINAL EVALUATION FORM 1.1

Comment 51: Contribute to infection in the dog? In humans?	In humans. This has been inserted line 257-258.
Comment 52: What is the minimum age to treat a puppy? Never less than 2 weeks...How about treating the bitch after whelping?	2 weeks. This has been inserted, lines 226.
Comment 53: Grammatic? Of which? Comment 54: Skin penetration of larvae	Sentence has been rephrased, line 266. “skin penetration of larvae” inserted, line 277.
Comment 55: Rarely. The difference between human infection with larvae from dog parasites and larvae of human origin is precisely the long duration of symptoms in the zoonotic one....	The section has been deleted, lines 277-278
Comment 56: You just said ...exhibit symptoms of diarrhea and pruritus.... Comment 57: Cysticercoid or infective stage of the ... Comment 58: And humans.. Comment 59: Pause? Pose? Spelling Comment 60: NO! this is a Cestode!	Sentence has been rephrased, line 292-294. “Infective stages” inserted, line 297. “and humans” inserted, line 298. Pose, word has been corrected, line 303. Yes, this has been corrected, line 306
Comment 61: Not necessarily in developing countries. The most extensive endemic regions are those of sheep and cattle raising countries, South Australia, New Zealand, Kenya, Argentina, Uruguay, Chile, southern Brazil, in addition to eastern Europe, southern Japan, Syria, Lebanon, Israel to name a few.	Sentence has been rephrased, lines 309-313



SDI FINAL EVALUATION FORM 1.1

Comment 62: They all have specific geographic limitations and different definitive and intermediate hosts. If mentioning the three types of echinococcosis, then mention as well their geographic places and definitive hosts. Dogs would be incidental definitive hosts in two cases.	The other species have been deleted so as to focus on dogs, lines 309-313
Comment 63: The disease caused is known as Neotropical Echinococcosis. Comment 64: Sentence construction Comment 65: In areas of heavy transmission...?	The <i>Echinococcus</i> species that cause Neotropical Echinococcosis have been deleted, lines 309-313 Sentence has been rephrased, line 315-317. Yes, this has been inserted in line 351
Comment 66: I find the whole clinical description erratic and somewhat chaotic. Does not follow a step wise pattern. Hydatid disease due to <i>E. granulosus</i> is always serious, although the gravity depends on the type of tumor, as well as the organ or tissue (brain, osseous, liver, lung, heart valve) in which it becomes implanted. The cyst usually has a layer of fibrous tissue around it and may produce symptoms 5 or 20 years later, when it has reached a size that presses upon adjacent organs. And then there are the different clinical presentations. So, not really what is described here.	The description of clinical symptoms has been rewritten, lines 326-340
Comment 67: Take many years to develop and manifest itself unless etc.	Sentence has been rephrased, line 332-335
Comment 68: Associated? Contaminant?	Sentence has been rephrased, lines 330-331