EFFICACY OF A NOVEL BROAD SPECTRUM ANTHELMINTIC CHEWABLE FORMULATION IN DOGS
Linda J Horpool, Karlheinrich Schmid, Nadja Rohdich, Eva Zschiesche, Dawie J. Kok, Mark J Allan, Emmanuel Thomas, Intervet / Schering-Plough Animal Health, Global Companion Animal, PO Box 31, 5830 AA Boxmeer, The Netherlands
Linda.horspool@sp.intervet.com

Introduction
Roundworms, whipworms, hookworms and tapeworms are still important canine parasites in terms of prevalence, pathogenicity and zoonotic impact. Measures are required to protect pets from parasitic infections, enhance the safety of the public and preserve the bond between pets and people. The efficacy of a fixed combination of pyrantel (PYR), oxantel (OXT) and praziquantel (PZQ) was investigated in dogs.

Materials & methods
The efficacy, based on worm counts, of a single recommended therapeutic dose (RTD) of 5 mg PYR + 20 mg OXT + 5 mg PZQ/ kg body weight (Plerion chewable tablets for dogs, Intervet / Schering Plough Animal Health, The Netherlands) was assessed in experimental (EI) and natural (NI) infestations with Toxocara canis and Trichuris vulpis and EI with Echinococcus granulosus. These studies were complemented by a field study in dogs naturally infected with Ancylostoma caninum (n = 11), T. canis (n = 11) and Dipylidium caninum (n = 8).

Results
T. vulpis: 99.9% (EI, n = 6 treated + 6 untreated control dogs) and 100% (NI, n = 9 + 9): E. granulosus: >99.9% (EI, n = 11 + 11); T. canis: 94.4% (EI, n = 10 + 11), 100% (NI, n = 12 + 13) and 95% in the critical test (NI, n = 10). A. caninum and T. canis faecal egg counts were reduced by >99% and the number of dogs positive for D. caninum proglottides in the faeces was reduced by 100%. The product was very well tolerated.

Conclusion
This novel broad spectrum anthelmintic formulation, highly effective against nematodes and cestodes in dogs, is a useful addition to the armory of treatment options for canine helminths.

PALATABILITY OF A NOVEL BROAD SPECTRUM ANTHELMINTIC CHEWABLE FORMULATION IN DOGS
Linda J Horpool, Karlheinrich Schmid, Nadja Rohdich, Eva Zschiesche, Mark J Allan, Emmanuel Thomas, Intervet / Schering-Plough Animal Health, Global Companion Animal, PO Box 31, 5830 AA Boxmeer, The Netherlands
Linda.horspool@sp.intervet.com

Introduction
Roundworms, whipworms, hookworms and tapeworms are still important canine parasites in terms of prevalence, pathogenicity and zoonotic impact. Palatable solid oral dosage forms, which are voluntarily accepted, are more convenient and improve pet owner compliance. The palatability of a novel chewable anthelmintic was investigated in dogs.

Materials & methods
The palatability of a single recommended therapeutic dose of 5 mg PYR + 20 mg OXT + 5 mg PZQ/ kg body weight (test product: Plerion chewable tablets for dogs, Intervet / Schering Plough Animal Health, The Netherlands), was assessed in a randomized, controlled (reference product: commercially available flavoured anthelmintic tablets) field study. The study was performed in client-owned dogs using a cross-over design with a washout period of 1 week between treatments. Uptake and consumption were assessed using an appropriate numerical rating scale (1 immediate uptake and consumption to 4 no uptake). Palatability (%) was calculated as the number of dogs with a score of 1 or 2 as a percentage of all dogs tested.

Results
Sixty-seven dogs of both sexes weighing between 4.5 and 55 kg and aged 2 months to 13 years were included in the study. A wide range of breeds, including German Shepherd, Golden retrievers, Dachshunds and Yorkshire Terriers, and cross breeds were represented. The mean score for the test product was 1.39 (c.f. 1.68 for the reference product). Palatability was 87.5% and 78.3% for the test and reference products.

Conclusion
This novel chewable broad spectrum anthelmintic was consumed spontaneously by most dogs and is a useful addition to the armory of treatment options for canine helminths.

References