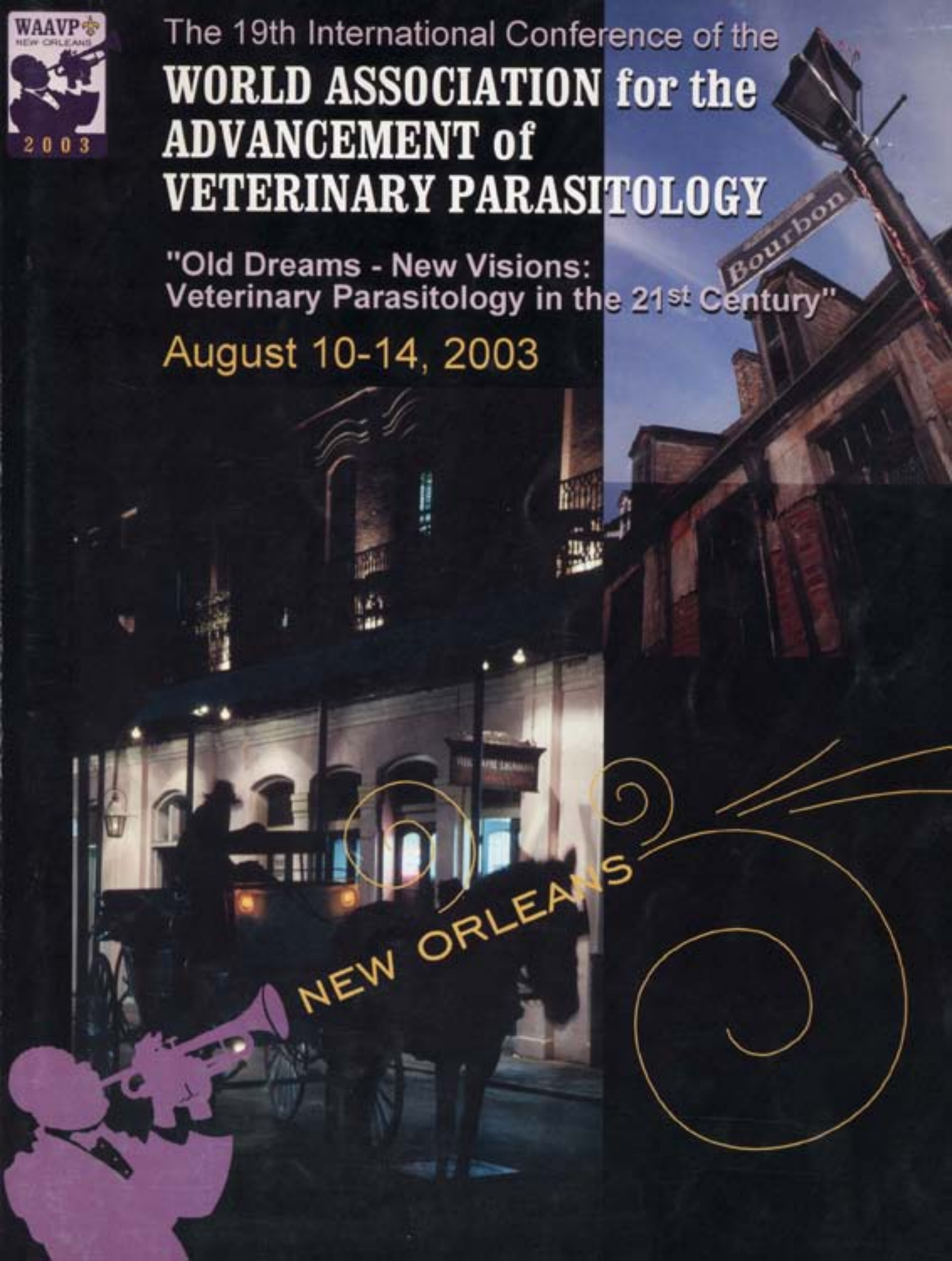




The 19th International Conference of the  
**WORLD ASSOCIATION for the  
ADVANCEMENT of  
VETERINARY PARASITOLOGY**

"Old Dreams - New Visions:  
Veterinary Parasitology in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century"

August 10-14, 2003



NEW ORLEANS



## **Examination of the strongylid community of brood horses in Ukraine by the diagnostical deworming method.**

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Commonly, the intestinal helminth communities of horses are studied *post mortem*, by autopsy methods. The aim of our investigation was to study the structure of the intestinal strongylid community of trotters from Dubrovsky horse farm after deworming using two anthelmintic drugs. The investigation was carried out on 24 horses (strongyle EPG>400) divided into three age groups: 8 foals younger than 1 year old, 6 two-year old foals, and 10 brood mares, 4-6 years-old. Animals were treated with "Nemasektin" (1% aversektin) and "Univerm" (0,2% aversektin). Faecal samples (200 g each) were collected 24 hours after treatment, and all strongyles expelled were selected. From 200 up to 790 worms per horse were collected and identified. Twelve cyathostome species were found in foals younger than 1 year old, the most prevalent were *Cylicocyclus nassatus* and *Cyathostomum catinatum*. These species composed 45.8 % and 40.4 % of the total burden of cyathostomes, respectively. Fourteen cyathostome species were found in two-years-old foals. *C. nassatus* (46.3%), *C. catinatum* (14.6%) and *C. calicatus* (9.4%) were the most prevalent. Fifteen cyathostome and 2 strongylid species were found in mares. *C. nassatus* (34.6%), *C. catinatum* (34.5%), *C. leptostomus* (8.7%) and *C. longibursatus* (6.7%) predominated. No significant difference in species composition between the groups treated with different anthelmintic drugs was observed. The results obtained confirm the possibility of horse intestinal strongylids investigation the *in vivo* by the method of diagnostic deworming. The structure of strongylid community and the predominating species observed in present study appeared to be similar to those reported by Dvoinos and Kharchenko (1994) for the horses from Ukraine in general.