

## *Gnathostoma Hispidum* Infection in Weasels

Su-Yeon Kim, Sang-Chul Kang, Hyoung-Seok Yang, Ho-Choon Woo, Jong-Hee Bae and  
Jae-Hoon Kim

*Department of Veterinary Medicine, College of Agriculture and Life Science,  
Cheju National University, Jeju, Korea*

Gnathostomiasis is a zoonotic disease caused by several species of the nematode genus *Gnathostoma*. The adult parasites reproduce in the esophagus or stomach wall of the final host such as cats, dogs, pigs, rats, tigers, leopards, wild pigs, and opossums. The first intermediate hosts are copepods and the second are freshwater fish in which the advanced third-stage larvae develop. Two dead weasels were referred to Cheju National University, Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital with no history taking. At necropsy, stomachs contained the outward projection of hard mass 2x2 cm in size with central pore in the mucosa, and yellowish-white round worms partially embedded in the mass. Histopathologically, the severe granulomatous gastritis with diffuse muscular hyperplasia was noted in the stomach, and focal eosinophilic inflammation was found in the lung. The gastric granuloma was composed of central remnants of dead parasites, adjacent multifocal cartilage and surrounded massive fibrous connective tissue and muscle layer. Parasitologically, the worms from the stomach were identified as *Gnathostoma hispidum*.

According to these results, multifocal granulomatous inflammation might be induced by *Gnathostoma hispidum* and this is the first report about gnathostomiasis in weasels in Korea.

*Corresponding author* : Jae-Hoon Kim (064-754-3387, E-mail: kimjhoon@cheju.ac.kr)