

Capillaria hepatica IN A GROUNDHOG (Marmota monax)

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Source: Journal of Wildlife Diseases, 11(1): 13

Published By: Wildlife Disease Association

URL: https://doi.org/10.7589/0090-3558-11.1.13

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Capillaria hepatica IN A GROUNDHOG (Marmota monax)

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This note describes a natural C. hepatica infection in a groundhog shot at the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge. The only grossly observable lesions were in the liver. Thirteen, yellowish-white, slightly raised lesions approximately 2 to 4 mm in diameter and extending into the liver parenchyma approximately 4 mm,

were scattered over all lobes of the liver. Upon histological sectioning, the liver lesions revealed C. hepatica adults and their characteristic eggs trapped in the liver parenchyma (Fig. 1). Each adult was surrounded by macrophages, causing considerable damage to the hepatica parenchyma.

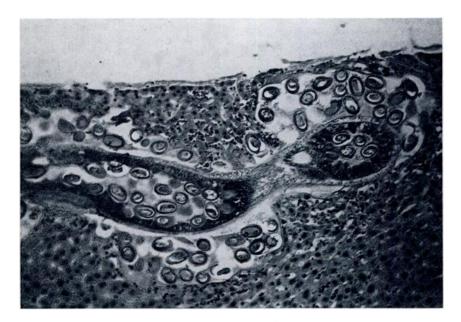


FIGURE 1. Section through a liver lesion containing **C. hepatica**. Notice the amount of tissue damage to the liver parenchyma surrounding the parasite. H & E stain; X 120.

Received jor publication 27 August 1973