

# Raccoon Dogs as Zoonotic Vectors

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## Background

Raccoon dogs *Nyctereutes procyonoides* are native to Asia but increasingly occur in Europe. The introduction in Europe was caused by anthropogenic influence which classifies it as an invasive alien species. These IAS are known for having an impact on native ecosystems based on their role as vectors of parasites and pathogens as well as predation of native species. The aim of this study was to reveal carried parasites and pathogens of raccoon dogs from Germany. The results are used to assess the raccoon dog's impact on native ecosystems.

## Methods

73 raccoon dogs were examined by dissection and feces examination. The stomach content was separated. Found species were identified morphologically as well as genetically. Based on the results, the prevalence, intensity and abundance of parasite infestation was calculated.

## Results

Based on the diet, a predation on native animal species such as the protected frog *Rana temporaria* could be shown. In total, 9 ecto- and 11 endoparasite species could be identified. Highest prevalence was found for *Uncinaria stenocephala*, highest intensity was found for *Echinococcus multilocularis*.

## Conclusions

The present study shows that *Nyctereutes procyonoides* could play an important role in the spread of zoonoses, because it serves as host for a high number of parasite species. He can also cause a decline in native animal species and therefore has a negative impact on native ecosystems and on animal and human health.

## Keywords

raccoon dog  
invasive alien species (IAS)  
zoonoses  
vector  
parasites  
wildlife

## Registration-ID code

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## Professional Status of the Speaker

PhD Student

## Junior Scientist Status

Yes, I am a Junior Scientist.

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