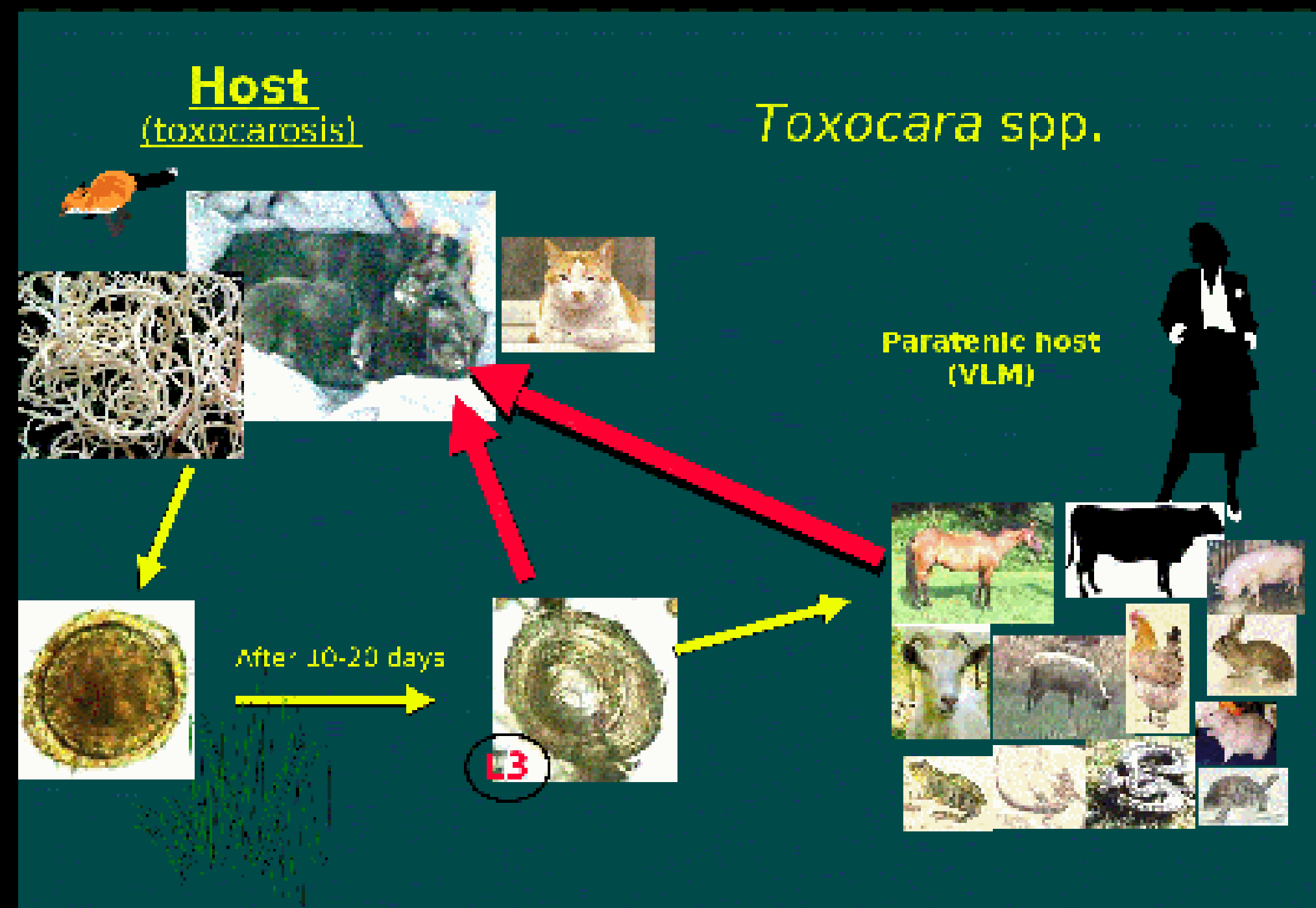


# Toxocarosis (VLM) in the Greece

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In Greece infections of *Toxocara canis* are found in the dog (3.7-44.7%), the fox (28.6%) e.t.c. and *Toxocara cati* arise frequently in the cat (17.2-66.7%) e.t.c. Eggs of *Toxocara* spp. were found in soil samples of 35% of the parks in Thessaloniki and Visceral Larva Migrants syndrom (VLM) is detected in the 10% of healthy people.

In our laboratory were detected (ELISA) specific IgG, IgM, and IgE in 12.5% of 680 patients suspected for Visceral Larva Migrants.

In the human (paratenic host) the larvae can be destructed by using albendazole (10 mg/Kg/day for 15 days), diethylcarbamazine citrate (0.25-3 mg/kg/day for 10 days), ivermectin (0.1-0.2 mg/kg, s.c.), mebendazole (1 g/day, for 21 days), thiabendazole (25 mg/kg/12 hours for 2 days).

In the carnivores, which are definitive hosts of the parasite, treatment can be taken place by using flubendazole (22 mg/kg/day for 2-3 days), ivermectin (0.3 mg/kg, s.c.), levamisole hydrochloride (5 mg/kg, once), mebendazole (100-200 mg/animal for 2 days), milbemycin oxime (0.5 mg/kg/day for 30 days in the dog), moxidectin (0.2 mg/kg, s.c., in the dog), nitroscanate (10 mg/kg, in the dog), oxfendazole (10 mg/kg/day for 3 days), oxibendazole (10 mg/kg, in the dog), piperazine adipate (45-110 mg/kg, repeated in 2-3 weeks), pyrantel embonate (5 mg/kg in the dog, 20 mg/kg in the cat), selamectin (6 mg/kg/month).

In order to prevent the infection of human, vegetables, fruits e.t.c. should be thoroughly washed. Proper hygiene (hand washing e.t.c.) should also be practiced following gardering or other activities that might bring one into contact with dog or cat faeces. The infected carnivores should be early diagnosed and treated.