

**TRAINING ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TEACHERS IN VETERINARY PUBLIC HEALTH  
THROUGH A SERIES OF LECTURES IN JATAÍ-GO, BRAZIL**

*(FORMAÇÃO DE MULTIPLICADORES EM SAÚDE PÚBLICA VETERINÁRIA POR MEIO DE  
PALESTRAS PARA PROFESSORES DOS ANOS INICIAIS DO ENSINO PÚBLICO NA CIDADE DE  
JATAÍ-GO, BRASIL)*

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Zoonoses are diseases transmitted between humans and animals, including invertebrates that cause significant damage to health. Rabies, leptospirosis, toxoplasmosis and leishmaniasis are serious illnesses that deserve attention and can be avoided by simple precautions, of which the population sometimes is unaware. School teachers should be made aware about the importance of this information in order to pass on this knowledge to young children and the community, as a basis for a safe and healthy relationship between animals and humans. This study aims to disseminate information to teachers in the early years of primary school, on the form of transmission and control of major zoonoses, and the main aspects about responsible animal ownership. A lecture for primary teachers with key information on rabies, leptospirosis, leishmaniasis and toxoplasmosis was prepared by the veterinarians from the course on Residência Multidisciplinar em Saúde of the Universidade Federal de Goiás, Campus Jataí. The approximately 50-minute lectures were held in 21 schools during March 2013. During the discussions, it became clear that most teachers had no basic knowledge about the subject. Nevertheless, they were interested in the topic and expressed desire to share this knowledge with their students and community. Questions regarding zoonoses were clarified and flyers were available to the teachers. We conclude that knowledge about zoonoses and the impact it can cause on public health is incipient and the best way to disseminate information is through the school. Accordingly, being aware of the basic aspects of responsible ownership of animals is a very powerful tool to manage and control such diseases. Empowering teachers is essential to achieve the goal of bringing awareness to children and, consequently, to their families and the community.

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