

## CANINE VISCERAL LEISHMANIASIS AT BARRA DO GARÇAS, MT

*(LEISHMANIOSE VISCERAL CANINA EM BARRA DO GARÇAS/MT)*

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The objective of this research was to evaluate the prevalence of canine visceral leishmaniasis (CVL) in pet dogs in Barra do Garças, MT. We collected blood samples of stray and pet dogs both symptomatic and asymptomatic for the diagnosis of CVL. The blocks from each neighborhood were randomly selected; and the blood samples from the pets were collected house to house, with the permission of the owners. Blood samples from the dogs were drawn by puncture of the cephalic vein, and collected using vacuum tubes and fractionated into two, one to obtain the serum for the ELISA with confirmation by IFA, as recommended by the Ministério da Saúde. Samples were collected regardless of symptoms due to the large number of mildly symptomatic and asymptomatic dogs. Along with the blood collection, an epidemiological questionnaire was completed regarding symptomatology and origin of the dog, and the personal data of the owner, seeking a possible collection of the animal in case of positivity. Of the 1,840 samples, 203 were serologically positive according to the indirect immunofluorescence assay, determining a prevalence of 11.0%. The possible risk factors observed for canine infection are the permanence of seropositive dogs in the houses and the proximity of the residences to forests and wastelands. The region commercial and rural activities are mining and extensive cattle production, ongoing activities with transit between urban and rural areas, leading to urbanization of the disease and the maintenance of the enzootic cycle. It is recommended constant surveillance by means of serological and entomological surveys due to the advancement of the disease in the State of Mato Grosso and the important role that dogs play in the epidemiology of urban visceral leishmaniasis.

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