

ANTIBODIES TO ANTI- *Leptospira* spp. IN DOMESTIC DOGS IN THE MICROREGION OF RIBEIRÃO PRETO

(ANTICORPOS ANTI- *Leptospira* spp. EM CÃES DOMICILIADOS NA MICRO-REGIÃO DE RIBEIRÃO PRETO)

D. C. TAVARES^{1*}, R. F. SANTOS¹, G. C. P. SILVA¹, A. C. N. F. MAXIMO¹, F. F. SOUZA², G. H. TONIOLLO³.

Leptospirosis is an anthroponosis transmitted by the urine of rodents (mice) infected by the bacterium *Leptospira interrogans*. Varying clinical signs lead to confusion with other types of deviations. It was believed that leptospirosis was present in rural areas only, due to contact with pigs, the infection source. Currently, the urban area is the most affected region while pet dogs are the most affected due to the habit of biting hard objects and licking the genitals, possibly ingesting urine. Rodents invade homes through the sewers and wastelands seeking food and contaminating the site. Therefore, this study investigates the disease incidence in domestic dogs and reports the spatial distribution in the micro-region of Ribeirão Preto. For this, the analyzed information was obtained from the database of the laboratory for the diagnosis of leptospirosis and brucellosis of the Department of Preventive Medicine and Animal Reproduction FCAV/UNESP, Jaboticabal. The data refer to animals treated at the Veterinary Hospital in 2011. We used the microscopic agglutination test, which tested the serovars tarassovi, Canicola, Grippotyphosa, Icterohemorrhagiae, Copenhageni, Pomona, Hardjo, Wolffi. The data analysis was performed using the MapInfo Professional software. Among the 100 tests, 24% of the dogs were serologically positive for at least one of the eight serovars tested, being: Copenhageni (41.66%), Canicola (41.66%), Grippotyphosa (25%), Icterohemorrhagiae (16.66%) and Hardjo (8.33%), with titers ranging between 100 and 800. The occurrence of reactive animals in each municipality was: Barretos, Matão, Sertãozinho, Cravinhos and Bocaina, 4.17%, each; Dumont, 12.5%; Guariba, 8.33%; Jaboticabal, 20.83%; Monte Alto, 12.5%; São Carlos, 8.33%; and São José do Rio Pardo, 16.67%. Based on the findings of this study, we concluded that leptospirosis has been under-diagnosed and although unapparent in the infected animal/man, *Leptospira* spp. is continuously or intermittently excreted in the urine for up to 700 days, thus constituting a serious public health problem.

¹Pós-Graduando do Departamento de Medicina Preventiva e Reprodução Animal - FCAV/UNESP - Jaboticabal - SP; ²Docente do Departamento de Reprodução Animal e Radiologia da FMVZ/UNESP - Botucatu - SP. ³Docente do Departamento de Medicina Preventiva e Reprodução Animal - FCAV/UNESP - Jaboticabal - SP; *denivet@hotmail.com