

Título: PRESENCE OF ANTI-LEPTOSPIRA SPP. ANTIBODIES IN HORSES CAPTURED ON PUBLIC ROADS IN THE CITY OF BAURU, SAO PAULO, BRAZIL

Autores: Sánchez, G.P.¹, Paixao, M.S.¹, Alves-Martin, M.F.¹, Guiraldi, L.M.¹; Santos, W.J.¹, Lemos, F.¹, Baldini, S.L.²

Instituição: ¹ UNESP – Paulista State University (Distrito de Rubião Junior, s/n 18618-970 - Botucatu, SP), ² Paulista Agency of Agribusiness Technology, Bauru, Brazil (Av. Rodrigues Alves, 40-40 - Horto Florestal - Bauru/SP).

Leptospirosis is one of the most important bacterial zoonoses of great impact in animal and public health worldwide. Its infectious agent is *Leptospira* spp., which possess pathogenic and nonpathogenic species, currently with 13 pathogenic species described and more than 260 serovars. Lots of mammals are susceptible to contract the disease and to spread it in the environment, such as the horses, in which the equine recurrent uveitis is one of the most common manifestations of the disease; besides abortion, stillbirth and other reproductive problems. Some studies in Brazil describe the prevalence of equine leptospirosis of 18% (128/714), 48% (132/276) and 67% (214/320); having Icterohaemorrhagiae, Canicola, Castellonis and Copenhageni as the predominant serovars. We evaluated 30 samples from horses captured on public roads in the city of Bauru, Sao Paulo, Brazil; with the Microagglutination test (MAT) against 25 pathogenic and intermediate *Leptospira* serovars and 1 nonpathogenic. The purpose was to evaluate these horses as a potential disseminator of *Leptospira* spp. to the environment, helping to spread the disease to other animals and humans. From the 30 samples, 90% (27/30) were positive to at least one serovar tested. From the positive animals, the most reagent were 70.37% (19/27) to serovar Shermani, 44.44% (12/27) to serovar Whitcombi, 40.74% to serovar Australis and Bratislava and 33.33% (9/27) to serovar Mini. The minimum agglutination tittle was 100 and the maximum was 400. The results show a degree of exposure to other animals species and to the environment, presenting tittles against serovars found in wild and domestic animals; and not having correlation to the previous studies conducted in horses. With this analysis we affirm the presence of the disease in this animal species (having some animals with tittles of 400) and show the horse, in this case the ones found on public roads, as a potential disseminator of leptospirosis to the environment and, subsequently to other animals and to humans.

Key words: leptospirosis, zoonoses, MAT, horses, disseminator