

Register Abstracts



Information abstract:

Seroprevalence of *Leishmania infantum* in cats in Central Spain

Tania Ayllón¹, Miguel A. Tesouro², Inmaculada Amusataguiz³, Alejandra Villaescusa⁴, Fernando Rodríguez-Francos, Angel Sainz⁶,

Facultad de Veterinaria. Universidad Complutense de Madrid-Madrid, Spain¹, Facultad de Veterinaria. Universidad de León-León, Spain², Facultad de Veterinaria. Universidad Complutense de Madrid-Madrid, Spain³, Facultad de Veterinaria. Universidad Complutense de Madrid-Madrid, Spain⁴, Facultad de Veterinaria. Universidad Complutense de Madrid-Madrid, Spain⁵, Facultad de Veterinaria. Universidad Complutense de Madrid-Madrid, Spain⁶,

Corresponding author: Angel Sainz , Tel.: 34913943874

angelehr@vet.ucm.es

Infection by *Leishmania* spp. in cats was first detected in 1912 in Algeria. Since then, clinical cases of feline leishmaniasis have been sporadically referred, specially in countries where the organism is endemic. Some authors consider that the cat is an incidental host for this infection, while others hypothesize that felids can act as reservoir hosts. Infection by different *Leishmania* spp. in cats has been reported in many countries (Portugal, France, Italy, Spain, Switzerland, USA, Brazil, Venezuela, Argentina, Egypt, Jordan, Iraq, Vietnam). In Spain, since the first *Leishmania* spp. infection described in cats in 1933, sporadic clinical cases have been reported. Different serological studies performed in other areas of Spain have shown seroprevalences ranging between 1.7 and 60%. Clinical signs caused by this infection in cats are not well-defined; the cutaneous pattern of leishmaniasis seems to be the most common. The association of *Leishmania* spp. infection and some immunosuppressive conditions, as FeLV or FIV infections, has also been suggested. The aim of the present study was to determine the seroprevalence of leishmaniasis in cats from central Spain (Madrid), and to assess the existence of associations between seroreactivity to *Leishmania infantum* and different variables (including breed, age, clinical signs, FeLV/FIV status, laboratory findings, and habitat). For that purpose, 233 cats attended at the Veterinary Clinic Hospital of Madrid for different medical or surgical reasons between September 2005 and June 2006 were tested for *L. infantum* using the immune-fluorescent antibody test (cut-off: 1/100). Our results showed a seroprevalence of 1.29% (3/233). Two of the three seropositive cats had an antibody titer equal to 1/400 and the other had an antibody titer equal to 1/100. According to our results, seroprevalence to *L. infantum* in cats is lower than in dogs from the same area. Other seven cats were also seroreactive to *L. infantum*, but showing antibody titers one dilution under the cut-off (1/50). Considering all the seroreactive samples, the percentage of animals seroreactive to *L. infantum* was 3%. No statistical association was found between seroreactivity to *L. infantum* and breed, age, clinical signs, FeLV/FIV status or habitat. On the contrary, relative lymphocytosis and an increase in ALT value were statistically associated with seroreactivity to *L. infantum*. Our results demonstrate the presence of cats seroreactive to *L. infantum* in Central Spain, an endemic area for this disease in dogs. Further studies are needed in order to characterize this infection in cats and in order to understand the role of cats in this infection.

Preferred Format: **POSTER**

Award: **NO**

 your confirmation has been sent by email.

Print

Exit