

Report of the first autochthonous cases of american tegumentary leishmaniasis in pet animals (canines, felines and ovines) in Engenho Jardim, Metropolitan Region of Recife, Pernambuco, Brazil.

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American tegumentary leishmaniasis (ATL) is a neglected disease which is expanding in Brazil. In Pernambuco, the county of Moreno, Metropolitan Region of Recife, is highlighted for presenting an important incidence. The disease has *Leishmania (Viannia) braziliensis*, as the main species of ATL in the State, related to the identification of reservoir hosts and species of phlebotomine vectors. Those considered reservoirs of ATL are the animal species which maintain *Leishmania* spp. in nature. Cases of natural infection by *L. (V.) braziliensis* are described in endemic areas in several regions of Brazil in dogs (*Canis familiaris*), domestic cats (*Felis catus*), horses (*Equus caballus*), donkeys (*Equus asinus*) and sheep (ovine). Tutors of three dogs of mixed breeds and both sexes with average age between 4 and 10 years old, have searched for the Nucleus of Health Surveillance and Environment of the county of Moreno complaining that the animals which lived at Engenho Jardim, endemic area for the disease, presented active lesions similar to american tegumentary leishmaniasis'. Besides that, a cat (feline) and a sheep (ovine) were also presenting similar lesions. The animals were looked by the veterinarian for clinical and epidemiological evaluation, as well as for sample collection for the laboratorial tests. The domestic animals presented lesions on the snout, ears, posterior paws and testicles. There were collected 5ml of blood (with EDTA) from the cephalic vein, lesion exudate and conjunctive using swabs and puncture aspiration (from the lesion's edge) for the parasitological and molecular tests. Glass slides with the scraped lesions were confected and stained with Giemsa for the microscopic exam. The material was transported and processed at the Reference Service in Leishmaniasis of the Aggeu Magalhães Institute – FIOCRUZ – PE - Brazil. The samples were smear positive by visualizing the parasite, considered as gold standard, and confirmed by PCR for the kDNA target (750pb), species-specific for the subgenus *Viannia*. Domestic animals (canine, feline and ovine), considered accidental hosts, participate of the maintenance of the endemic since the transmission cycle of ATL occurs in peri and intra-domiciliary environments. In this context, it is of great importance to understand both epidemiology and life cycle of this endemic in order to contribute and improve the control strategies of the disease in this region.

Keywords: American Tegumentary Leishmaniasis; Domestic Animals; Epidemiology.

Financial support: CNPq, FACEPE, SRL/IAM/FIOCRUZ-PE.