

Assessment perception in risk factors of *Toxoplasma gondii* transmission, in their occupational activities at the Cuba National Zoological Park and Zoological Garden of the City of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

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ABSTRACT

The practice of veterinary medicine exposes the professional to risks, and the risk probability is increased for those who work in zoological gardens. The present study, unpublished, approaches the toxoplasmic infection in individuals with labor activities involving wildlife species in captivity. Considering what is exposed above, the research objective was to evaluate the variables: risk perception and professional competence, as well as the risk factors related to the presence of antibody anti-*Toxoplasma gondii* in workers with occupational hazard at the Cuba National Zoological Park and Zoological Garden Foundation of the city of Rio de Janeiro (RIOZOO). For such, 133 workers occupationally exposed were researched (n=79 from Cuba National Zoological Park and n=54 from RIOZOO) among veterinary doctors, biologists, technicians and service staff with animal related activities. To evaluate variables was used the questionnaire 'Methodologies for the analysis of some indicators of risk associated to the territorial handling of zoonosis' It was developed and validated in Cuba by Dr. Suárez and collaborators (2006), modified (2008). In the data, statistical analysis test of X^2 was made using software Epidat 3.1 (2006). For the antibodies anti-*T. gondii* detection was used techniques of ELISA and RIFI. Samples were analyzed in the Toxoplasmosis Laboratory at the "Pedro Kouri" Tropical Medicine Institute in Cuba and at the Toxoplasmosis and other Protozosis Laboratory at Institute Oswaldo Cruz/Fiocruz, RJ, Brazil. In the analysis of replies obtained through questionnaires there were no findings of statistical differences ($p \geq 0.05$) between the two zoological gardens. The variables, risk perception and professional competence were punctuated, predominantly, as nominal category 'MEDIUM'. In the serologic results of workers, only the technicians group (Cuba National Zoological Park 43,75% and RIOZOO 75%) have shown significant statistical differences $p \leq 0.05$ between the two zoological gardens. The levels of risk perception in the investigated workers were not statistically different between the two zoological gardens in relations to professional competence.

Keywords: Occupationally exposed workers, *Toxoplasma gondii*, risk perception, professional competence, risk factors.