

**EVALUATION OF THE KNOWLEDGE ABOUT LEISHMANIASIS OF PUBLIC SCHOOL  
ELEMENTARY TEACHERS IN JATAÍ, GO, BRAZIL**

*(AVALIAÇÃO DO CONHECIMENTO SOBRE LEISHMANIOSE DOS DOCENTES DOS ANOS  
INICIAIS DO ENSINO FUNDAMENTAL DE ESCOLAS MUNICIPAIS DE JATAÍ – GO, BRASIL)*

**D. A. AZEVEDO<sup>1</sup>, D. P. ARAÚJO<sup>1</sup>, E. M. N. PAULA<sup>1</sup>, C. A. CRUZ<sup>2</sup>, D. B. SOUSA<sup>3</sup>,  
R. B. MEIRELLES-BARTOLI<sup>3\*</sup>**

Leishmaniasis is an anthroponosis caused by *Leishmania* spp. and transmitted by the vector *Lutzomyia* spp. It is a systemic disease, characterized by fever and involvement of various internal organs and can be fatal. The main reservoir is the urban dog. There are several barriers regarding the disease: complex diagnosis; prohibited treatment of animals; effectiveness of vaccines; and controversial euthanasia of infected dogs. This study assesses the knowledge of elementary teachers of all public schools about leishmaniasis in Jataí - GO. A questionnaire regarding the transmission and prevention of this disease was applied to 165 elementary teachers in 19 schools. Of the total respondents, 43% (71/165) had never heard of leishmaniasis; of the remaining 57% (94/165), 70.2% (66/94) could not answer how it is transmitted; 21.3% (20/94) answered via mosquito bite; and, only 1.1% (01/94) answered through a sand fly bite; and, 8.5% (8/94) answered that leishmaniasis can be transmitted by cat litter, flooding and contaminated water, snail, urine and feces. On how to prevent it, 88.3% (83/94) could not answer; 4.25% (4/94) answered by environmental cleaning and sanitation; 4.25% (4/94) cited that animal care and vaccination could contribute to reducing the risk of transmission by the vector; 2.1% (2/94) of the teachers remembered the importance of basic hygiene and sanitary education. One teacher (1.1%) said it is important to avoid contact with contaminated water and runoff water. It was concluded that the majority of respondents do not have knowledge about leishmaniasis, which in some cases is confused with other diseases, so it is extremely important that people are given more information about the control and prevention of this disease by health and sanitary professionals.

<sup>1</sup>Alunos do Curso de Medicina Veterinária da Universidade Federal de Goiás, Campus Jataí.

<sup>2</sup>Mestranda do Programa de Pós-Graduação em Medicina Veterinária, Departamento de Medicina Veterinária Preventiva, FCAV, UNESP, Campus Jaboticabal.

<sup>3</sup>Docentes do Curso de Medicina Veterinária da Universidade Federal de Goiás/Campus Jataí, Unidade Jatobá, Laboratório de Sanidade Animal. <sup>\*</sup>E-mail: raphaellabrazil@hotmail.com