

**PREVALENCE AND EVALUATION OF EPIDEMIOLOGICAL FELINE
IMMUNODEFICIENCY IN CATS SEEN AT THE VETERINARY HOSPITAL OF THE
STATE UNIVERSITY OF CEARÁ**

*(PREVALÊNCIA E AVALIAÇÃO EPIDEMIOLÓGICA DA IMUNODEFICIÊNCIA FELINA EM
GATOS ATENDIDOS NA UNIDADE HOSPITALAR VETERINÁRIA DA UNIVERSIDADE
ESTADUAL DO CEARÁ)*

**J. R. SILVA^{1*}, F. S. M. MARTINS¹, R. P. S. FILHO³, S. L. T. SANTIAGO², P. S. F.
BARBOSA², A. A. CORTEZ².**

Feline immunodeficiency (FI) is a viral disease, which due to its high morbidity and immunosuppression associated with opportunistic infections is an important infectious disease in domestic cats. In Brazil, the prevalence rates vary greatly, and there is a lack of epidemiological information for different regions of the country. Therefore, the aim of this study was to determine the prevalence of antibodies to the FI virus, using rapid immunochromatography test (RICT), as well as to evaluate the epidemiological aspects of the disease. For this, we used the kit RICT of Bioeasy® according to the manufacturer's recommendations on 50 cats from the routine care seen at the Veterinary Teaching Hospital of the State University of Ceará - UHV/UECE, during the period from March to May, 2013. The results showed a prevalence of IF antibodies of 30% (15/50), of which 26.6% (4/15) were asymptomatic and 73.3% (11/15) symptomatic. The main clinical symptoms were nonspecific, such as weight loss 60% (9/15), apathy 53.3% (8/15), anorexia 40% (6/15) and alopecia 33.3% (5/15). Among males, the prevalence was 28.9% (11/38), while in females was 22.2% (4/18). Regarding age, 20% (3/15) of the positives were younger than 1 year old, 66.7% (10/15) were between 1 and 6 years and 13.3% (2/15) older than 6 years. Of positive animals, 80% (12/15) had access to the street while 20% (3/15) lived confined. We conclude that the prevalence rate of FI antibodies, as determined by the RICT, was 30% during the studied period. It was also observed that prevalence was higher for male cats aged between 1 and 6 years old that had access to the street.

¹ Discente da Faculdade de Veterinária da Universidade Estadual do Ceará – FAVET/UECE.

² Docente da Faculdade de Veterinária da Universidade Estadual do Ceará – FAVET/UECE.

³ M.V. da Unidade Hospitalar Veterinária da Universidade Estadual do Ceará – FAVET/UECE.

* juh19_rabelo@hotmail.com