

**FLOCK-LEVEL RISK FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH *Neospora caninum*
SEROPREVALENCE IN DAIRY GOATS IN A SEMIARID REGION OF NORTHEASTERN
BRAZIL**

*(FATORES DE RISCO ASSOCIADOS À SOROPREVALÊNCIA DE *Neospora caninum* EM
CAPRINOS LEITEIROS EM UMA REGIÃO SEMIÁRIDA DO NORDESTE DO BRASIL)*

**C. S. A. B. SANTOS¹, S. S. AZEVEDO², H. S. SOARES³, H. F. J. PENNA⁴, C. J. ALVES⁵, S. M.
GENNARI⁶***

A cross-sectional study based on a planned sampling was carried out to determine flock-level risk factors associated with *Neospora caninum* antibody prevalence in dairy goat flocks in the semiarid region of Northeastern Brazil. Serum samples from 975 adult dairy goats from 110 flocks were examined by the indirect immunofluorescent antibody test, using cut-off point at dilution of 1:50. From the 110 flocks, 18 presented at least one seropositive animal, corresponding to a prevalence of 16.4% (95% CI: 10.0%-24.6%) while 26 animals (2.7%; 95% CI = 1.7%-3.9%) tested positive for *N. caninum* antibodies. The identified risk factors were grazing at communal pasture (OR = 10.34; $P = 0.034$), not using disposable syringes (OR = 3.78; $P = 0.023$) and flock size > 25 goats (OR = 6.51; $P = 0.007$). Further studies are needed to elucidate the importance of the identified risk factors in the epidemiology of this infection.

¹ Doutor, Universidade Federal de Campina Grande

² Doutor, Universidade Federal de Campina Grande

³ Doutor, Universidade de São Paulo

⁴ Doutor, Universidade de São Paulo

⁵ Doutor, Universidade Federal de Campina Grande

⁶ Doutor, Universidade de São Paulo. E-mail: sgennari@usp.br