

**FREQUENCY OF SEROPOSITIVE DOGS FOR CANINE VISCERAL LEISHMANIASIS IN
DIVINÓPOLIS – MG IN 2010**

*(FREQUÊNCIA DE CÃES SOROPOSITIVOS PARA LEISHMANIOSE VISCERAL CANINA EM
DIVINÓPOLIS – MG EM 2010)*

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Visceral leishmaniasis (VL) is caused by a protozoan of the genus *Leishmania* (GUERRA, 2008) with vector transmission and worldwide distribution. It is currently considered a reemerging disease due to increased incidence in recent years (RESENDE, 2007). In urban areas of Minas Gerais and Brazil, the domestic dog is the main reservoir of *Leishmania chagasi*, which is transmitted from dog to humans via the bite of female sand flies (straw mosquitoes or birigui), thus characterizing a zoonotic disease. This study aims to determine the occurrence of canine visceral leishmaniasis in Divinópolis - MG, during 2010. We collected blood samples from dogs referred to the Center for Zoonosis Control (CCZ) with clinical signs of the disease. The samples were analyzed in the Ezequiel Dias Foundation (FUNED) and Laboratory of Parasitology of the Universidade Federal de São João Del Rey, campus Divinópolis. From the 2169 samples analyzed, 251 (11.57%) were positive. The dogs were separated by regions and categorized as “stray” and “domestic”. In the northern region, of 347 samples, 47 were positive with 29 domestic and 18 stray dogs. From the 531 samples collected in the Northeast, 91 were positive of which 63 domestic and 28 stray dogs. In the western region of the 281 samples collected, 21 were positive with 13 domestic and 8 stray dogs. In the Southeast, from 486 samples 38 were positive, of which 20 domestic and 18 stray dogs. In the Southwest, from the 226 samples collected, 16 were positive samples with 10 domestic and 6 stray dogs. In the Central Region, 308 samples were collected and 38 were positive, of which 26 domestic and 12 stray dogs. Positive results for the regions were: North (13.95%), Northeast (17.14%), Central (12.34%), West (7.47%), Southeast (7.82%) and Southwest (7.08%). It is observed that the regions with the highest prevalence are closer to the river that crosses the city. The results allow prioritizing areas of higher occurrence aiming at more effective control in Divinópolis.

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