

## **COMPARATIVE STUDY OF THE KNOWLEDGE ABOUT ANIMAL RABIES OF TEACHERS OF MUNICIPAL PUBLIC EDUCATION IN JATAÍ, GOIÁS, BRAZIL**

*(ESTUDO COMPARATIVO DO CONHECIMENTO SOBRE A RAIVA ANIMAL DOS PROFESSORES  
DA REDE PÚBLICA MUNICIPAL DE ENSINO DO MUNICÍPIO DE JATAÍ – GO, BRASIL)*

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

Rabies is a viral anthroponozoonosis that causes neurological problems and is fatal. The disease is transmitted mainly by infected animals. Increasing teachers' awareness becomes essential in order to spread the information. This study aimed to compare previous knowledge and assimilation of information about this disease through a lecture offered to teachers of all public schools of Jataí, GO. We interviewed 165 teachers from 19 schools. A questionnaire with open questions about transmission and prevention was applied before and after the lecture. Of the total, 2.4% (4/165) did not answer the questions before the lecture. The comparison of the answers prior and after the lecture shows that the percentages on how rabies is transmitted changed from 72% (116/161) to 71.5% (118/165), for transmission via animal diseases; from 18% (29/161) to 11.5% (19/165), by contact with animals; those who were unaware reduced from 8.7% (14/161) to 7.0% (12/165); and, by the animal hair was only cited by 0.6% (1/161) while transmission via mosquito bite remained the same 0.6% (1/161). New responses which were observed post-lecture: 4.8% (8/165) contact and injuries; 3.6% (6/165) only bats; and, 0.6% (1/165) from food and health problems. An important fact to be emphasized is that before the lecture only 1.9% (3/161) had placed bats in the cycle of rabies; however, after the lecture it increased to 40.6% (67/165). Regarding prevention, unawareness percentage among teachers decreased from 25.4% (41/161) to 16.9% (28/165). Before the lecture 69.9% (112/161) related prevention to vaccination; from these 94.6% (106/112) animals vaccination only, 0.8% (1/112) for humans and 4.4% (5/112) for both. After the lecture the link between vaccine and prevention remained 69.6% (115/165), of which 92.1% (106/115) for animals, 3.4% (4/115) for humans and 4.3% (5/115) for both. Animal contact should be avoided rose from 4.3% (7/161) to 9.6% (16/165) and population control from 0.6% (1/161) to 1.8% (3/165). New answers cited after the lecture: wound management, 1.2% (2/165) and not having contact with bat, 0.6% (1/165). In conclusion, the knowledge of the teachers improved post-lecture, but it is necessary to intensify sanitary and health education in the society as a whole.

<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>3\*</sup>E-mail: raphaellabrazil@hotmail.com