

**PERCEPTION OF DOG OWNERS FROM CASTANHAL-PA ABOUT BIOLOGY,
CONTROL AND TRANSMISSION OF PATHOGENS BY *Rhipicephalus sanguineus***

(*PERCEPÇÃO DOS PROPRIETÁRIOS DE CÃES DOMÉSTICOS EM CASTANHAL/PA SOBRE A
BIOLOGIA, CONTROLE E TRANSMISSÃO DE PATÓGENOS POR *Rhipicephalus sanguineus**)

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The tick *Rhipicephalus sanguineus* transmits various pathogens to dogs. Generally, it is controlled with chemical acaricides; however, the improper use of acaricides can lead to individuals resistant to these products (Melo et al., 2010). Considering that this resistance may be related with the lack of information on the biology of the tick, this study aims to evaluate the knowledge of dog owners concerning the biology, control and transmission of pathogens by *R. sanguineus* in the city of Castanhal, PA. Therefore, 64 dog owners, randomly chosen, were interviewed while awaiting treatment at the Veterinary Hospital of UFPA. The sample was calculated using the software EpiInfo 7 (expected frequency=50%, error β =20%, error α =0.01). The semi-structured questionnaires were analyzed with the SPSS v.20.0 software to assess the association between answers and odds ratio when possible (95%). The respondents had no preference for the sex of the animal and the majority had mongrel dogs (54%). Much of the households had no vacant lots surrounding them (52.4%), which was considered as a protection factor against tick infestation (OR=0.23). Although most respondents dogs had never presented any disease transmitted by ticks (78.6%), many believe that these are important transmitters of disease (42.2%), and can even cause death of the dogs (82.8%). It was also observed that most respondents did not know the lifespan of a tick in the environment (79.7%), when it was necessary to replace the acaricide (42.2%), or what causes the resistance of ticks to chemicals (57.8%). This indicates a lack of knowledge about the biology of this ectoparasite, which is reflected in the difficulty to control it. It is clear, then, that it is necessary to raise awareness of the population about the biology of the tick to optimize its control.

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