

**OCCURRENCE OF RABIES IN HERBIVORES IN REGIONS OF RIO DE JANEIRO
(BRAZIL) FROM 2007 TO 2011**

*(OCORRÊNCIA DE RAIVA EM HERBÍVOROS NAS REGIÕES DO ESTADO DO RIO DE JANEIRO
(BRASIL), NO PERÍODO DE 2007 A 2011)*

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In the state of Rio de Janeiro, the epidemiology of rabies has dropped sharply in pets, reaching zero number of cases from the year 2001 and on. However, the number of cases reported in herbivores (cattle and horses) and bats has been increasing. Taking into account these facts, a further investigation about the occurrence of this disease in the State according to region is justified, in order to compare and determine the regions with the highest incidence. A survey about rabies cases in herbivores in the State of Rio de Janeiro was performed for the period 2007-2011. Data were collected from the only two laboratories, in the state responsible for the rabies diagnosis of suspected animals. During this period, from the suspected cases, 63% of the municipalities had at least one confirmed case of rabies. The highest numbers of cases were reported in the region of Médio Paraíba, followed by the Northwestern region of the state. It was also observed that high numbers of cases were reported in counties that border or are very close to the regions of the Médio Paraíba and the Northwestern region. The results show that it is necessary to improve the actions taken by the Defesa Sanitária Animal throughout the State of Rio de Janeiro to increase awareness and even prevent the disease, especially in the Médio Paraíba region, due to the high occurrence throughout the study period.

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