

## HORSE SEROPOSITIVE PREVALENCE TO EIA IN MATO GROSSO IN 2012

(PREVALÊNCIA DE EQUÍDEOS SOROPOSITIVOS PARA AIE EM MATO GROSSO NO ANO DE 2012)

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Equine Infectious Anemia (EIA) is a disease caused by a virus of the family Retroviridae, genus Lentivirus. It has a worldwide distribution and affects only equines, especially horses. The virus is transmitted primarily through the bite of the stable flies (*Stomoxys calcitrans*) and horseflies (*Tabanus* sp.). The disease has no cure and the virus causes a persistent infection; therefore, the seropositive animal is a carrier of the disease while alive. Control actions and prophylaxis are based on serological tests, routine removal of positive animals from the herd, limiting the movement of infected animals and control of vector population. The objective of this study is to report the prevalence of animals seropositive to the EIA virus, determined from the results of blood samples tested in the Infectious Diseases Laboratory of the Veterinary Hospital (HOVET) of the Federal University of Mato Grosso, in Cuiabá (UFMT/Cuiaba). Between the months of January and December 2012, the laboratory received 1,181 blood samples of animals from various regions of Mato Grosso. Of these samples, 1,031 were of horses, 140 of mules and 10 of donkeys. The 5-mL blood samples were stored under refrigeration to be transferred to the laboratory, where they were centrifuged and the serum was separated. Serum was tested for agar-gel immunodiffusion (AGID), which is the standard test for the diagnosis of the disease. Of the total analyzed, 103 horses and two mules were seropositive for the disease. No donkey was diagnosed as positive. Therefore, the seropositive prevalence was 9.9% and 1.4%, for horses and mules, respectively. The assessment of the biological, epidemiological and prophylactic characteristics of this disease is essential for the control of the disease and its agent, and the success of horse breeding in the country or region where it manifests itself.

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