

Seroepidemiology of *Leishmania Infantum* in Rural Dogs in Golestan Province, Iran (2012 to 2014)

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Received: 16 Nov 2014

Revised: 9 Dec 2014

Accepted: 16 Dec 2014

Abstract

Background and Objective: Dogs have been introduced as a major reservoir of *Leishmania infantum*. Concerning the increased sporadic reports of humeral visceral leishmaniasis in Golestan province, we aimed to study seroepidemiology of leishmania infantum in Rural Dogs.

Material and Methods: this study was conducted in 2012 - 2014 on 150 Serum samples of rural dogs, from 10 districts of Golestan province. The samples were analyzed by ELIZA kit.

Results: the frequency of *leishmania infantum* was 15.3% and it was higher in the dogs aged more than four. There were no differences in *Leishmania infantum* infection between sexes and seasons.

Conclusion: our findings indicate the presence of *Leishmania infantum* in Golestan Province. Given the presence of positive titer of *Leishmania infantum* in dogs without clinical signs, we emphasize the main role of rural dogs in transmitting *Leishmania infantum* to villagers in the studied area.

Keywords: *Leishmania Infantum*, ELIZA, Rural Dogs, Golestan Province