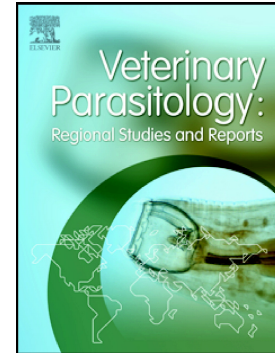


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INVESTIGATIONS INTO THE ROLE OF RATS AS INTERMEDIATE HOSTS FOR *NEOSPORA CANINUM* IN CHENNAI, INDIA[#]

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ABSTRACT

Attempts were made to detect *Neospora caninum* in rats (*Rattus rattus*) in and around Chennai, India. During the study, 112 feral rats were trapped and blood, brain, heart, lungs and diaphragm samples were collected for serological, parasitological and molecular identification of *N. caninum*. Out of 112 rats, cyst-like structures were identified in 16 brain squash samples. However, the identity of the cysts could not be confirmed as *N. caninum*. A total of 12 sera

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