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Research

Pet and Captive Birds as Potential Reservoirs of Zoonotic Bacteria

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Abstract

Thermophilic *Campylobacter* spp. and *Salmonella* spp. are zoonotic bacteria, commonly harbored in the enteric tract of avian species. This survey aimed at verifying the presence of these microorganisms in a heterogeneous Italian population of pet birds and captive birds of prey (e.g., Passeriformes, Psittaciformes, Accipitriformes, Falconiformes, Strigiformes) that live in close contact with humans. One hundred and fifty-one individuals were tested for thermophilic *Campylobacter* spp. and 444 for *Salmonella* spp. Six C*. jejuni* and one S. Livingstone were isolated from birds of prey: 4 Accipitriformes (2 *Buteo regalis*, 2 *Parabuteo unicinctus*), 1 Falconiformes (*Falco peregrinus*) and 1 Strigiformes (*Strix aluco*) were positive for C. *jejuni*, and 1 Falconiformes (*Falco peregrinus*) for S. Livingstone. Five C. *jejuni*