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Carlotta De Luca, Giulia Niero, Diego Cattarossi, Marco Bedin, Alessandra Piccirillo



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Research**Pet and Captive Birds as Potential Reservoirs of Zoonotic Bacteria**

Carlotta De Luca, DVM
Giulia Niero, MSc
Diego Cattarossi, DVM, PhD, GPCert (ExAP)
Marco Bedin, DVM, PhD, GPCert (ExAP)
Alessandra Piccirillo, DVM, PhD, Dip. ECPVS*

From the Department of Comparative Biomedicine and Food Science, University of Padua, Legnaro (PD), Italy (De Luca, Niero, Piccirillo). Casale sul Sile Veterinary Clinic, Casale sul Sile (TV), Italy (Cattarossi), Clinica Euganea Veterinary Clinic, Monselice (PD), Italy (Bedin).

Address correspondence to: Alessandra Piccirillo, Department of Comparative Biomedicine and Food Science, University of Padua, viale dell'Università, 16 - 35020 Legnaro (PD), Italy. E-mail address: alessandra.piccirillo@unipd.it. Phone: +39 049 8272968. Fax: +39 049 8272973.

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*

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