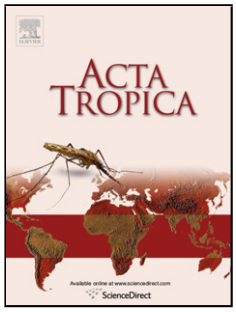

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Implications of the use of serological and molecular methods to detect infection by *Leishmania* spp. in urban pet dogs

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Abstract

The aim of this study was to evaluate the relationship between naturally occurring *Leishmania* spp. infections in dogs (*Canis familiaris*) and the practical implications of the use of serological and molecular methods to confirm diagnoses. The study population consisted of 96 domestic dogs in southeastern Brazil. Serum samples were tested for the presence of anti-*Leishmania* immunoglobulin G (IgG) antibodies using four commercial canine visceral leishmaniasis kits. Dogs confirmed positive by immunofluorescence antibody test (IFAT) were culled and samples from mesenteric lymph nodes, spleen border, bone marrow and ear skin were taken and submitted to DNA extraction. PCR reactions were performed using primers that