FELINE TRICHOMONIASIS: WHERE DOES THE DANGER LIVE?

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In recent years, the protozoan *Tritrichomonas fetus* has been identified as the cause of chronic colitis in felines in several regions of the world. Thus, the aim of this study was to investigate the occurrence of *T. fetus* in felines in the region of Araçatuba, São Paulo, Brazil, and to correlate it with the environment where these animals live. A total of 75 felines were investigated in this study. Of these, 35 were domesticated, 16 lived in a commercial cattery and 24 in a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO). Regarding age, 16 were kittens, 10 were juveniles and 49 were adults. Regarding breed, 58 were Mixed Breed (SRD), 16 Persians and one Siamese. Regarding sex, 27 were males, 37 females and 11 were unidentified. To diagnose the protozoan, the animals underwent colonic lavage with saline solution. After collecting, the samples were analyzed by optical microscopy at magnifications of 10 to 40X, to observe the T. fetus trophozoites. The analysis of the results consisted of descriptive statistics using the chi-square test, evaluating positivity and negativity, with the main variables (breed, sex, age group and location). In this study, of the 75 cats submitted to parasitological examination, five were positive. Regarding the analysis of the results, we observed a significantly higher occurrence of T. fetus in felines raised in NGOs, with no statistical significance in relation to breed, sex and age group. Thus, in this study, we observed a higher occurrence of the protozoan in adult animals (100% [5/5]), SRD (80% [4/5]) that live in environments with high population density (100% [5/5]). In our study, the occurrence of feline trichomoniasis was 6.66%, with adult animals, mixed breeds, that live in environments with high population density, being the most affected.

Keywords: diagnosis; colitis; *Tritrichomonas foetus*