

PRELIMINARY DATA ON TICK-BORNE DISEASES IN DOGS IN LATVIA

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INTRODUCTION: There have been isolated case reports of tick-borne diseases (TBD) in dogs in Latvia, however no studies have been conducted to determine prevalence of these diseases in dogs in Latvia.

MATERIALS AND METHODS: Clinically healthy dogs (group 1) and dogs with clinical signs suggestive of TBD (group 2) were enrolled in the study. Blood was drawn from all dogs and analyzed hematologically (analyzer and microscopy) and with IDEXX SNAP 4Dx test which detects antibodies against *Anaplasma phagocytophilum*, *Ehrlichia canis*, *Borrelia burgdorferi* and *Dirofilaria immitis*. Information regarding tick exposure and ectoparasite control habits was collected from the owners of the dogs enrolled in the study.

RESULTS: In group 1 (n=60), mean age of the dogs was 4.3 years (range 2 months -13 years); sex: 28 female, 32 male; various breeds were represented. In group 2 (n=15), mean age of the dogs was 6.3 years old (range 1.5-10 years), sex: 7 female, 7 male, 1 unknown, various breeds were represented. Among clinically healthy dogs one was positive for *A.phagocytophilum*. Three dogs with clinical signs were positive for *A.phagocytophilum* and one for *E.canis*. The prevalence of anaplasmosis was calculated at 1.6 % in healthy dogs and 20% in dogs with TBD clinical signs.

CONCLUSIONS: Preliminary data show that TBD in dogs in Latvia are encountered with similar frequency as in Poland and Sweden.