

RABIES: SURVEY IN SÃO PAULO, BRAZIL, DURING 1996-1997.

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The Instituto Pasteur of São Paulo, SP, Brazil, do rabies diagnosis by direct immunofluorescence and mice inoculation tests for detection of the antigen and isolation of the rabies virus. From January 1996 to December 1997, the Instituto Pasteur of São Paulo, Brazil received 7.420 samples of cerebral tissues of several animal species, including human samples; these were 5.450 (73.4%) dogs samples, 1.085 (14.6%) cats, 357 (4.8%) bats, 318 (4.2%) livestock (bovine, equine, swine, ovine and goat), 204 (2.7%) other species (including wild animals and rodents like hamsters, rats, rabbits and mice) and human samples 8 (0.1%). The majority of samples were coming from counties of the state of São Paulo, and the minority were of another areas of Brazil. Rabies was diagnosed in 153 (2.06%) samples: there were 28/5.450(0.51%) dogs, 3/1077 (0.28%) cats, 4/357 (1,12%) bats, 113/318 (35.53%) livestock and 5/8 (62.5%) human cases. Another 7.230 (97.44%) were negative and 37(0.5%) inadequate to laboratory tests. There was only one human rabies from the state of São Paulo. All positive bats were non-hematophagous and were from counties that rabies didn't occurred. Rabies is endemic in all country; the human rabies is transmitted mainly by dogs, following by bats and cats. There is a national program to control animal and human rabies, the health and agriculture authorities work together, they investigate and adequately measures are taking, including vaccination in animal population, capture and euthanasia of stray animals, re-vaccination in rabies focus, control of haematophagous bats, and pre and post exposure treatment of humans.