SEROPREVALENCE OF *DIROFILARIA IMMITIS* IN CATS FROM SPAIN

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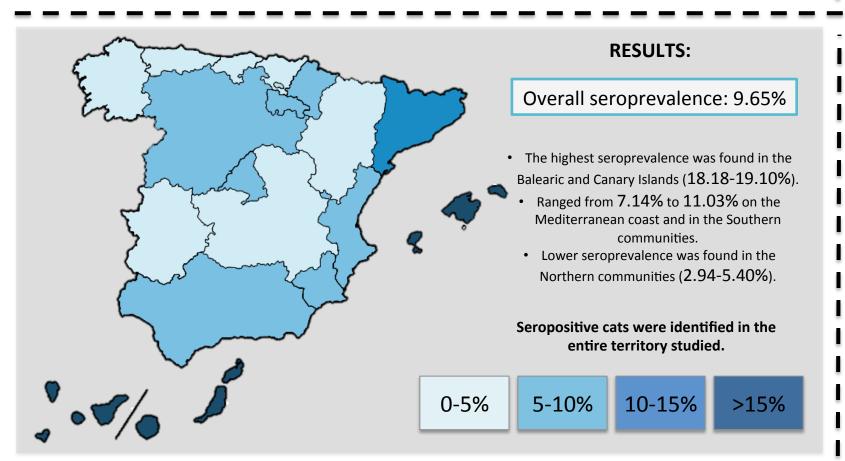
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INTRODUCTION:

Dirofilaria immitis is a parasitic nematode responsible of cardiopulmonary dirofilariosis. This disease is endemic in Spain, being reported in the dog in almost the whole country; furthermore, feline infections are diagnosed with increasing frequency in areas where the disease is endemic in dogs. However, cats generally tolerate heartworm infection without noticeable or only transient clinical signs; sometimes sudden death in an apparently healthy cat is the only sign.

OBJECTIVES:

First epidemiological report of the seroprevalence of *D. immitis* in cats in the whole of Spain.





METHODS:

5.199 client-owned cats 103 veterinary centers 17 autonomous communities and 2 autonomous cities in Spain between September 2020 and July 2021

Sera were analyzed for anti-D. immitis and anti-Wolbachia antibody.

CONCLUSION:

The feline population throughout Spain is exposed to and at risk of D. immitis infection.

It is important that veterinarians and cat owners are aware of the need to prevent dirofilariosis in cats and implement this.