

PSEUDORABIES IN WILD BOAR

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Abstract

During the period 1997-1999 three Italian wild boar populations have been investigated in order to detect antibodies against Aujeszky Disease using an ELISA test. The number of examined samples (N), their seroprevalencies (P) and standard errors (SE) were:

- 1) Maremma, Tuscany (Grosseto) (N=265; P= 47% SE=3)
- 2) Presidential Estate of Castel Porziano (Rome) (N=136; P=0%)
- 3) Northern Apennines (Bologna) (N=89; P=6%; SE=2.4)

In the study area 2) according to sampling intensity and population number (about 800 animals in an enclosed area of 50 sqkm) the maximum undetected prevalence might be 2%, an unrealistic prevalence for maintaining the infection in a such high-density populations.

No differences were observed according to gender whereas prevalence significantly increases with age showing (for the maremma population only) and endemic infection. In this population, using age stratified seroprevalence, the force of infection results in 0,00153/wild boar/day. The importance of latency in maintaining the infection in the wild is discussed. The infection in the wild boar appears endemic where population are large and long lasting and when sympatry with free roaming domestic pigs have been reported in past.

Zusammenfassung (??)

Résumé (??)

Key words: hare, poxvirus, hare fibromatosis, re-emerging disease
