RESUMO SIMPLES - OUTRAS ÁREAS TEMÁTICAS

# CURRENT METHODS FOR CONTROLLING EQUINE INFECTIOUS ANEMIA IN THE STATE OF RIO DE JANEIRO.

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Equine infectious anemia (EIA) is a viral disease caused by a Lentivirus of the Retroviridae family. The disease is transmitted by hematophagous insects and fomites, compromises the immunity of the affected animal, has no curative treatment or vaccine, and requires compulsory notification, according to Normative Instruction No. 50 of September 24, 2013, issued by the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAPA). The state Official Veterinary Service (SVOE) Rio de Janeiro acts to control the disease by requiring negative test results for equids for intra- and interstate transit, and those seized in impoundment pens.

The objective of this study is to describe the positive results, in the year 2024, of the diagnostic methods currently recommended by the prevailing sanitary legislation, and the procedures of the SVOE after a positive EIA diagnosis in the impoundment pens of the city of Seropédica. For the performance of the EIA test, a blood sample in a dry biochemical tube must be collected exclusively by veterinarians, and the request form must be duly completed with the owner's and property's information, registration in the SVOE, and the individual identification of the animal, including name, breed, coat color, sex, age, and physical description, as required by MAPA Normative Instruction No. 45, of June 15, 2004. After collection, the sample and the form must be submitted to a laboratory accredited by MAPA. The Agar Gel Immunodiffusion Test (AGID) is considered the gold standard diagnostic method for laboratory testing. The Enzyme-Linked Immunosorbent Assay (ELISA) test was officially established in 2018 as an alternative diagnostic method in Brazil. However, when a sample tests positive, an AGID test must be conducted for confirmation, and the assay reports with the positive results must be forwarded to the official veterinary services. As a control measure, the SVOE enforces the interdiction of the affected property and the euthanasia of the reactive animal. For the property to be released from interdiction, two consecutive EIA tests with negative results must be performed at 30 and 60 days, ensuring the elimination of the focus. In the perifocal area, owners are advised to test their herds for EIA. With the exception of the impoundment pen, which is permanently interdicted. All outbreaks and epidemiological links are recorded in the Brazilian Veterinary Surveillance and Emergency System (e-SISBRAVET), which assists in monitoring outbreak investigations and planning official control actions. Of the 14 animals that tested positive in 2024, 4 were detected using only the AGID technique, and 10 were detected using the ELISA technique with confirmation by AGID. All animals were euthanized as required by sanitary legislation. Both techniques, AGID and ELISA, proved to be adequate, with highspecificity and sensitivity, respectively. As a result, there has been a reduction in false-positive diagnoses in equids and, in most cases, a decreased need for retesting. The identification of positive cases occurs through the performance of tests for transit purposes, screening of a rural property and for animals seized in impoundment pens. Currently, in the state of Rio de Janeiro, passive surveillance takes place through the use of these two diagnostic methods aimed at identifying positive equids, while the control method is based on eliminating the source of infection. In the state of Rio de Janeiro, there are no EIA

controlled entities, and no surveys are conducted for classification as a disease free zone.

Palavras-chave: control; diagnostic; eia; equids; lentivirus.