RESUMO SIMPLES - OUTRAS ÁREAS TEMÁTICAS

DIAGNOSTIC METHODS IN SITUATIONS REQUIRING MANDATORY REPORTING TO THE OFFICIAL SERVICE

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Rabies is an invariably fatal viral zoonosis; therefore, in Brazil, there is a national control program entitled the National Program for the Control of Rabies in Herbivores (PNCRH) of the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAPA), which regulates rabies control actions with the objective of reducing the prevalence of cases nationwide. The notification of suspected cases is mandatory to the Official Veterinary Service (SVO), according to current health legislation under the Brazilian Veterinary Surveillance and Emergencies System (e-SISBRAVET). In the municipality of Seropédica, suspected rabies cases in

herbivores are handled by the Agricultural Defense Center of Rio de Janeiro (NUCDARIO) of the State Secretariat for Agriculture, Livestock and Supply of Rio de Janeiro (SEAPA-RJ). The aim of this report is to describe the occurrence of two cases of rabies in cattle in 2022 following histopathological diagnosis, as well as the focus-control actions undertaken by the SVO. In October 2022, NUCDARIO received the notification of two bovine rabies cases in the municipality of Seropédica, based on histopathological examinations performed by the Pathology Section (SAP) laboratory of the Federal Rural University of Rio de Janeiro (UFRRJ). After the initial telephone notification, the opening of the case in e-SISBRAVET was recommended, through which NUCDARIO technicians were formally notified. The report included the histopathological findings for both animals, a detailed description of the main clinical signs—such as ataxia and subsequent lateral recumbency—and information regarding euthanasia and necropsy performed by the property's veterinarians. Tissue and organ samples were submitted to SAP/UFRRJ, which identified, in histological sections of the cortex and mesencephalon, inclusion bodies compatible with Negri bodies, which are pathognomonic for rabies. NUCDARIO conducted an on-site inspection to investigate the conditions associated with the event, gathering information about the animals' origin. It was determined that the animals had entered the property with an animal transit permit (GTA) in September 2022, originating from the municipality of Volta Redonda. Although the cattle on the Seropédica property had already been vaccinated against rabies in May, a booster vaccination was administered to the entire herd immediately after the positive diagnosis. The official diagnostic methods for rabies in herbivores—direct immunofluorescence and mouse inoculation test—are performed in the state of Rio de Janeiro by the Agricultural Research Corporation of the State of Rio de Janeiro (PESAGRO-Rio). The procedures carried out by the official service aimed to examine, through observation, the remaining animals originating from the same transit as the index case in Volta Redonda. In e-SISBRAVET, an epidemiological link was established to ensure follow-up of the property of origin by the local SVO. A formal notification of the outbreak was sent to the Municipal Health and Agriculture Secretariats to allow monitoring of individuals who had contact with the infected animals, and to ensure post-exposure rabies vaccination for those who were exposed. The importance of reporting cases is emphasized, even when they do not involve unconfirmed suspicions. Even when the diagnosis is not performed using an official technique, reporting is mandatory whenever the occurrence of diseases requiring compulsory notification—such as rabies, a lethal zoonosis—is

confirmed. Notification is a fundamental step for disease control, regardless of whether the case is suspected or laboratory-confirmed. Diagnostic methods capable of characterizing the case and identifying the etiologic agent in the affected animal, as demonstrated in this report, must be considered. Such procedures enabled the development of effective preventive strategies to reduce the occurrence of new cases, as well as the implementation of post-exposure measures for individuals involved in the outbreak.

Palavras-chave: diagnosis; histopathology; notification; rabies.