

Press briefing

„Parasites are spreading - High time for repelling“

Circolo della Stampa di Milano, Milano, Italy

Friday, March 16, 2007, 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Key points Dr. Xavier Roura

High endemic, high risk – ectoparasite-transmitted infections of dogs in Spain

- Studies have proven the presence and spread of different emerging and re-emerging canine vector borne diseases in Spain. The same is true for their related pathogens, e.g., ehrlichiosis, leishmaniosis, babesiosis and rickettsiosis.
- Little information is available on the increase of the diseases in specific areas of Spain (and Europe).
- There are several possible reasons why canine vector borne diseases are on the rise. First off, certain changes in the world climate may foster the spread of vectors and diseases. On the other hand, improved diagnostic techniques may merely have facilitated detection of infectious agents which have always been present.
- For most diseases, the dog is the primary peridomestic reservoir host. Depending on the type of disease, zoonotic transmission is possible.
- Canine leishmaniosis is endemic in at least some areas of Spain. A prevalence of up to 67% has been detected in selected populations.
- Specific therapy against canine vector borne diseases often results in clinical improvement; nevertheless, there is no singular therapy that has been proven to fully cure any of these diseases. Since parasitic vectors seemingly constitute the only source of transmission, a measure that effectively controls the vectors (especially ticks and sand flies) is highly called for.

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