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## Veterinari Medicina

**Molecular prevalence and risk factors for the occurrence of canine monocytic ehrlichiosis**

Milanjeet, Singh H, Singh NK, Singh ND, Singh C, Rath SS:

Veterinari Medicina, 59 (2014): 129-136

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Evaluation of blood samples collected from 214 dogs from Ludhiana, Punjab (India) was performed for the presence of *Ehrlichia canis* using PCR-based assays targeting a portion of the 16S rRNA gene. Of the total samples subjected to routine blood smear examination, the morulae of *E. canis* were detected in 2.34% samples. Nested PCR assay produced amplicons of expected size (389 bp) specific for *E. canis* in 41.59% (89/214) of samples. The results of multivariate analysis showed that the prevalence of *E. canis* was higher in the summer as compared to the winter season ( $P = 0.031$ ) and in dogs younger than six-month-old as compared to older dogs ( $P < 0.001$ ), while breed

and sex of the host were not significantly associated with the occurrence of the disease.

## Keywords:

canine monocytic ehrlichiosis; *Ehrlichia canis*; haematological abnormalities; nested PCR; risk factors

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