

Seroprevalence of *Toxoplasma gondii* and *Neospora caninum* in Dairy Goats from Romania

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SUMMARY

Little information is available on the seroprevalence of *Toxoplasma gondii* and *Neospora caninum* infections in goats in Romania and even in Europe. During 2007-2010, 735 serum samples were collected from dairy goats located in 4 historical regions (Crişana, Maramureş, Transylvania and Muntenia) from Romania. Sera were analysed for *T. gondii* and *N. caninum* antibodies (IgG type) by enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) using two commercial kits (Chekit Toxotest Antibody ELISA and Chekit *Neospora caninum* Antibody ELISA, Idexx-Bommeli, Switzerland). Three hundred and eighty-eight out of 735 (52.8%) goats presented *T. gondii* antibodies and 12 out of 512 (2.3%) goats had *N. caninum* antibodies. The high seroprevalence of *T. gondii* suggests that infection with this parasite is common in dairy goats in Romania, and less common the infection with *N. caninum*. This is the first time that infection with *N. caninum* in goats is reported in Romania and the first extended study on seroepidemiology of *T. gondii*.

Keywords: *Toxoplasma gondii*; *Neospora caninum*; dairy goats; Romania.

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