

COMPARATIVE STUDY AND PREVALENCE OF PERIODONTAL DISEASE IN *PANTHERA ONCA* KEPT IN CAPTIVITY AND IN WILD LIFE

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Abstract

A total of 42 jaguars (*Panthera onca*) belonging to Zoos of the State of São Paulo, with ages varying from 6 months to 25 years of age, born in or out of captivity were studied.

We studied also 4 (four) individuals of *Panthera onca*, with estimated age varying between 3 to 8 years. All these animals were captured in Fazenda Sete, city of Miranda, State of Mato Grosso do Sul, in the South Pantanal, and were all free-living wild animals.

The methodology used was, injectable general anesthesia, physical examination, oral examination, documentation of the clinical findings in dental charts, photographs and filming of all the animals examined.

All animals kept in captivity presented some type of oral disease varying from light to severe, which might have caused injury to various degrees to the stomatognathic system (failure in dental eruption, anatomical defects of teeth, dental wearing, malpositioning of teeth, dental mobility, dental trauma, caries, odontoclastic resorptive lesion, periodontal disease and oral manifestations of viral disease (Table 1).

All these diseases may cause the individual to have an altered hemostasis and possible death. Such diseases seem to be associated to the life conditions to which these individuals were submitted (stress, nutritional imbalance, diet texture or environment adaptation).

The free-living wild animals captured presented subtle degrees of oral diseases that did not compromise the function and health of the stomatognathic system, nevertheless we do not know if these diseases can develop throughout their lives.

Table 1. Prevalence of oral lesions in captivity - jaguars (*Panthera onca*) in the State of São Paulo, Brazil.

Oral lesion	Prevalence in <i>P. onca</i> (number of cases and percentage)
Bacterial plaque (no staining solution used)	3 (7,14%)
Gingivitis	21 (50%)
Dental calculus	42 (100%)
Furcation exposure	6 (14,28%)
Dental mobility	0 (0%)
Gingival recession	6 (14,28%)
Periodontal pocket	14 (33,33%)
Dental wearing	35 (85,71%)
Dental staining	5 (11,90%)
FORL	12 (28,57%)
Dental fracture	32 (76,19%)
Pulp exposure	18 (42,85%)
Caries	0 (0%)
Gingival hiperplasia	3 (7,14%)
Malocclusion	20 (47,61%)
Dental absence	14 (33,00%)
Oral ulcers	0 (0%)
Total	42

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Reference

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