

International meeting of countries that are facing Leptospirosis outbreaks in the Americas



Experience of Leptospirosis in the Republic of Brazil

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In his presentation Dr. Pacheco described: how the health system is structured in Brazil in order to show where the zoonosis program is located; the timeline of the epidemiological background; the information system and the design of the reporting form of mandatory notifiable diseases. He highlighted the importance of the year in which the mandatory reporting of communicable diseases (including leptospirosis) was established. He also mentioned the importance of the year when the certification of information systems was conducted. All reportable diseases are collected from the primary care unit to a national database. He then explained the prioritization of departments based on classification by frequency of cases, with the objective of reducing mortality and strengthening surveillance, identifying areas of risk, establishing control methodologies for leptospirosis reservoirs and training medical personnel. He presented the registered cases in a period of 5 years in the country, fatality rates, total number of cases by department; and stressed the effect of population density on rates in some cities. In the epidemiology of the urban and rural areas, the climate and environment are determinant factors. On the other hand, the culture, occupation and sanitary conditions are risk factors, with an animal reservoir as the source of infection. To conclude, he presented the risk stratification of the country and explained that there is no national plan but a surveillance system and a program with control, prevention and detection activities.