

PREVALENCE OF ANTIBODIES TO *COXIELLA BURNETII* IN BLOOD DONORS IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC

I. Literák

Department of Epizootiology, University of Veterinary and Pharmaceutical Science, Brno, Czech Republic

SUMMARY

In 1988-1993, a total of 3,732 sera of blood donors from two districts (Strakonice and Nový Jičín) of the Czech Republic were tested for antibodies to *Coxiella burnetii*. Using the complement-fixation test at titers of 8 (10) and higher, the antibodies were detected in 41 (1.1 %). No statistically significant difference in seroprevalence between the Strakonice and Nový Jičín districts was found ($\chi^2 = 2.536$, $P = 0.112$, d.f. = 1). Antibodies were ascertained in 36 donors, 24 of which worked in agriculture. In one donor, antibodies persisted for at least 21 months. The highest ascertained titer was 160.

Key words: *Coxiella burnetii*, antibodies, complement-fixation test, blood donors

Address for correspondence: I. Literák, Department of Epizootiology, University of Veterinary and Pharmaceutical Science, Palackého 1-3, 612 42 Brno, Czech Republic