

MANAGEMENT AND TREATMENT OF MANED WOLVES (CHRYSOCYON BRACHYURUS) AND CRAB EATING FOX (CERDOCYON THOUS) WITH SUSPECTED SARCOPTIC MANGE AT THE ECOLOGICAL AND EXPERIMENTAL STATIONS OF ITIRAPINA, SP

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RESUMO

The fragmentation of natural environments and the consequent increase in contact between wild and domestic animals can facilitate the spread of pathogenic agents. One example is *Sarcoptes scabiei*, a mite that causes sarcoptic mange, a worldwide disease that affects both humans and animals. In Brazil, sarcoptic mange has already been reported in free-living maned wolves (*Chrysocyon brachyurus*), a species considered vulnerable to extinction in the state of São Paulo. During march 2022 to June 2023, two maned wolves (out of eight identified) presented clinical signs compatible with mange (alopecia and crusts on the skin). Faced with the need for clinical intervention, an emergency action was carried out by Fundação Florestal and the consultancy company ViaFAUNA, to capture, diagnose and treat the maned wolves in the Ecological and Experimental Stations of Itirapina (EEEI). During three capture expeditions using box traps, with an interval of three months, totaling 75 days of effort, the animals were captured and immobilized with tiletamine-zolazepan, (3mg/kg - Zoletil®50), for clinical evaluation, performance of skin scraping exams and administration of acaricide (Bravecto® MSD) in doses of 10-20 kg for juveniles and 20-40 kg for adult individuals. The choice of the acaricide, as well as the dose were based on recent studies that demonstrated effectiveness in treating maned wolves that showed the same clinical signs. In total, seven maned wolves and one crab eating fox were captured and treated with at least one dose of the acaricide. Among the individuals captured, four showed alopecia, one of which was in an advanced stage. Of the individuals with symptoms compatible with scabies, two were recaptured, reevaluated, and clinical improvement and absence of alopecia and ectoparasites were found, confirming the effectiveness of the treatment. It was not possible to diagnose the *Sarcoptes scabiei* mite by examining skin scrapings, however, there was remission of symptoms in animals recaptured post-treatment. Monitoring this population of maned wolves is important to assess the health condition and effectiveness of the treatment carried out. This action will serve as a model for future interventions in other conservation units, with the aim of preventing the mortality of this threatened species, mainly due to the degradation of the Cerrado biome due to agricultural expansion.

PALAVRAS-CHAVE: Chrysocyon brachyurus, parasitic diseases, wild canids, zoonoses

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