

## DETERMINATION OF HEMATOLOGICAL PARAMETERS OF CAPTIVE ONCILLA (*Leopardus tigrinus*). PRELIMINARY DATA.

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Breeding wild animals in captivity represents a good way to achieve species' preservation. Nevertheless diseases are important factors that contribute to unsuccessful reproduction. So, to establish hematological reference parameters for each species is very helpful because allows better investigation about health condition of these animals. The purpose of this study is to determinate reference values for captive *Oncilla* (*Leopardus tigrinus*). Thirty-three captive, males and females, healthy animals from Zoo Park Foundation of São Paulo were included. Blood was obtained by jugular venopuncture after chemical restraint with xylazine (1-2 mg/kg/IM) and ketamine (10 mg/kg/IM). Leucocytes and erythrocytes counts, hematocrit and globular volume were determined. Differential leucocytes counts, as well as morphological evaluation were performed in blood smears. Values obtained, after calculation of mean  $\pm$  two standard deviations, ranged as seen: erythrocytes  $6,2 - 11,0 \times 10^6 / \text{mm}^3$ ; globular volume 32 - 49 %; hemoglobin 11,3 — 18,0 g/dL, mean corpuscular volume (MCV) 37,8 — 56,7 fL, mean corpuscular hemoglobin (MCH) 14,4 — 19,8 pg, mean corpuscular hemoglobin concentration (MCHC) 32,1 — 40,1 %, total leucocytes count  $3,5 - 16,6 \times 10^3 / \text{mm}^3$ . Differential leucocytes count revealed ( per  $\text{mm}^3$ ): band neutrophils 0-500; mature neutrophils 2740 — 13000; eosinophils 0 — 330; lymphocytes 580 — 2770; monocytes 0 — 500 and rare basophils. No statistically difference was obtained concerning sex variable. Data obtained were compared to previous studies regarding hematological parameters of domestic cats of São Paulo city, so under the same weather conditions of the wild species studied. Comparison, performed by MINITAB 14, showed significant difference ( $p < 0,05$ ) between total erythrocytes, globular volume, hemoglobin, MCHC, band neutrophils, mature neutrophils, eosinophils and lymphocytes. In conclusion hematological parameters of domestic cats may not be used to evaluate captives *Oncilla*, in opposition of what is reported by some previous studies. These findings support the need to determinate the hematological parameters for each of the species considered. The reference values obtained could be considered for both males and females as no difference was found.