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## **AEROBIC CONJUNCTIVAL FLORA OF HEALTHY DOGS IN SÃO PAULO**

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**Purpose.** To identify the microorganisms of the aerobic conjunctival flora of healthy dogs in São Paulo, Brazil. **Methods.** Transversal descriptive study. Seventy-eight dogs (Afghan Hound, American Pit Bull Terrier, Belgian Shepherd, Border Collie, Brazilian Terrier, Dachshund, English Cocker Spaniel, German Shepherd, Great Dane, Irish Setter, Maltese, Poodle, Rottweiler, Weimaraner, Yorkshire and mixed breed), males or females, between 8 months to 10 years old were selected. All the animals were outpatient and samples were collected from February/2001 to October/2001 after clinic and ophthalmologic examination. Animals with ocular disorders, systemic illness or under any systemic or topical treatment (30 days from the inclusion date) were excluded. The samples were collected with sterile swabs from the lower fornix (one eye randomly selected). Samples were put onto: Thioglycolate broth; Blood agar; Chocolate agar and Sabouraud agar. The media were transported in thermal recipients and stored at 37°C. The microbiologic analysis Gram stain and standard biochemistry assays were performed at the Laboratory of External Ocular Diseases of Paulista School of Medicine. **Results.** In 50% of the cases none microorganisms grew in the four environments. The isolated bacteria were *Staphylococcus aureus* (28.05%); coagulase-negative staphylococcus (15.85%); *Corynebacterium xerose* (2.44%); *Streptococcus gamma-hemolytic* (1.22%); *Streptococcus alpha-hemolytic* of the viridans group (1.22%) and *Proteus sp* (1.22%). No fungus grew in the Sabouraud agar during the 30 day storage. **Conclusions.** Gram-positive bacteria are the most common bacteria in canine ocular flora. *Staphylococcus aureus* may be identified in a significant number of normal canine eyes. The presence of fungus could not be detected in normal eyes.