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European Union Reference Laboratory for Parasites



Istituto Superiore di Sanità

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# *Toxoplasma gondii* antibodies in extensively farmed wild boars (*Sus scrofa*) in Denmark

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*Toxoplasma gondii* is an important zoonotic pathogen worldwide, but has received relatively little attention in Denmark. Our aim was to estimate the seroprevalence of *T. gondii* in Danish wild boar to gather baseline data for evaluating their possible role for human infection. Blood samples were collected from 101 hunter-killed wild boars (*Sus scrofa*) either in October to January 2016/2017 or 2017/2018. The wild boars originated from five fenced areas in Jutland, Denmark. The sera were analyzed for antibodies against *T. gondii* by a commercial indirect ELISA (ID Screen® Toxoplasmosis Indirect Multi-species, ID.vet, France). Antibodies to *T. gondii* were detected in 28 (27.7%, 95% CI 19.7–37.1) of the 101 wild boars. We found serological evidence of substantial exposure to *T. gondii* among the Danish wild boars. The high seroprevalence suggests that eating undercooked Danish wild boar meat may pose a risk of infection with *T. gondii* to other hosts, including humans.