

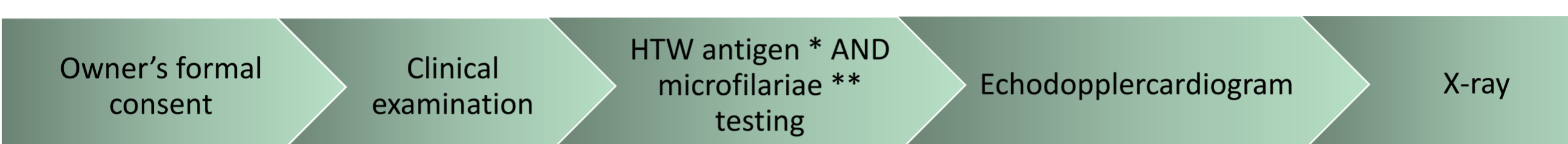
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## INTRODUCTION.

Canine infected with *Dirofilaria immitis* (HTW) are frequently presented with coughing, dyspnea, abnormal lung and heart sounds and exercise intolerance (ESDA Canine Heartworm Guideline, 2017). Since those clinical signs are unspecific, the aim of this work was to compare the severity of the clinical signs among HTW infected and HTW free dogs presented at the cardio-respiratory unit of the Veterinary Hospital of the Universidade Federal Rural do Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

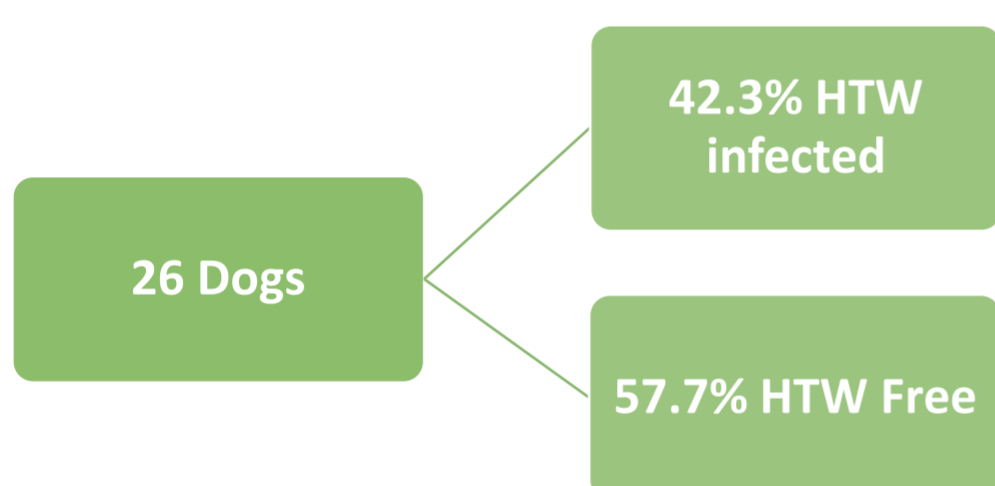
## MATERIALS AND METHODS



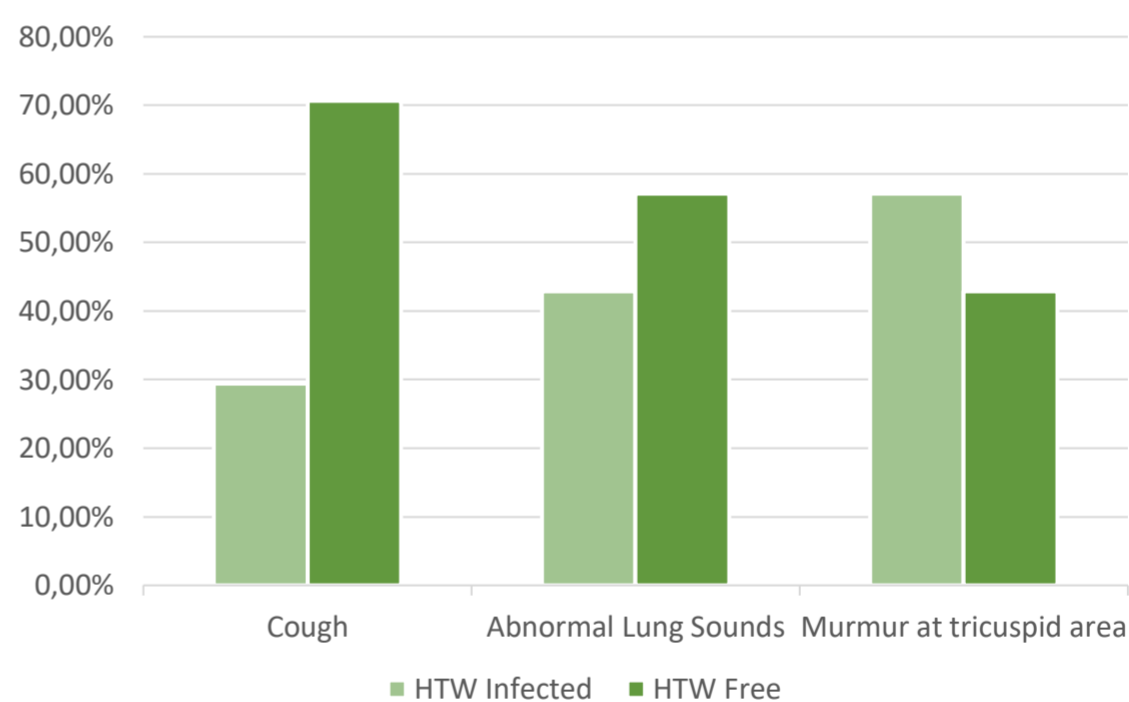
\*Snap 4DX plus, Idexx® \*\* Knott (Newton and Wright, 1956 J. Parasitol 42(3):246-58)

## RESULTS

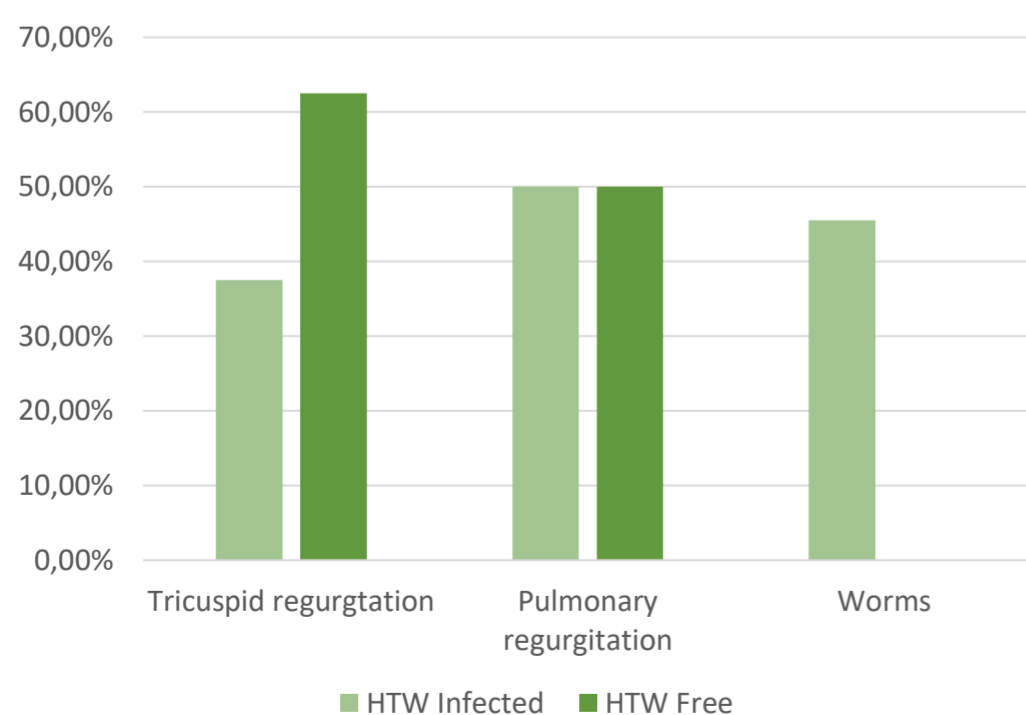
### Animals.



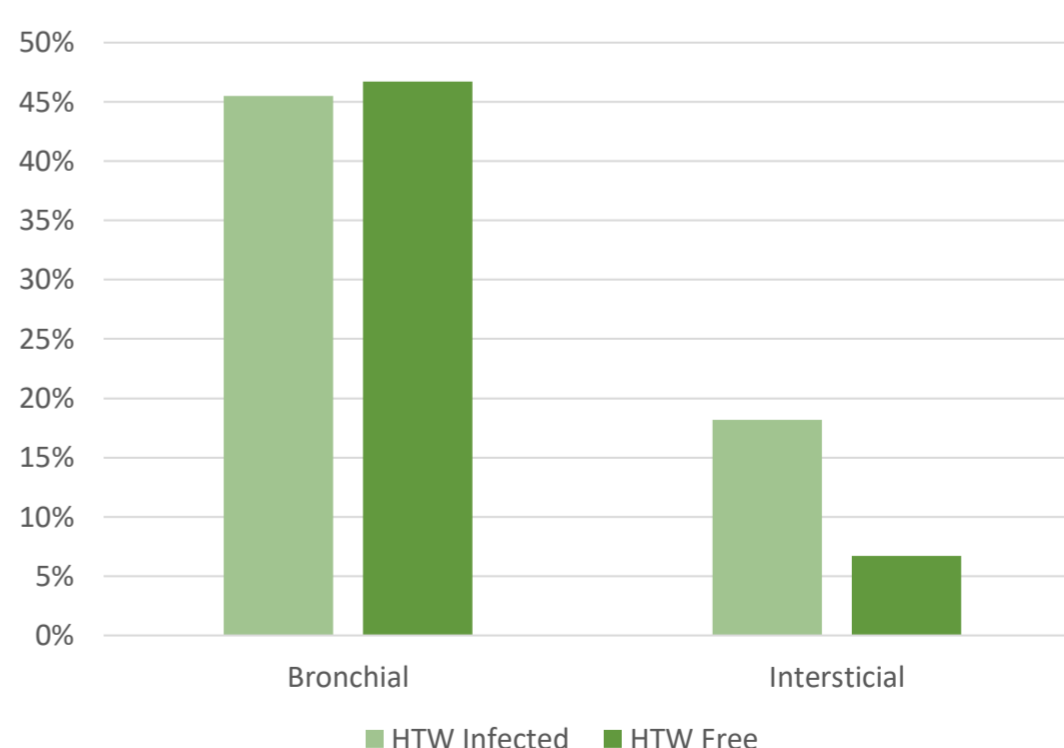
### Clinical Signs.



### Echodopplercardiogram.



### X – ray (Pulmonary pattern).



## CONCLUSIONS

These results suggest that HTW infection could not be either included or excluded from the differential diagnosis by the clinical presentation, radiographic exam or ECO unless the worms could be identified. Therefore, parasitological and serological testing cannot be discarded.