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## Contamination of Dog Feed by Fumonisin

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### Resumo

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Cereal grains used in feed production are often contaminated with toxic secondary metabolites produced by filamentous fungi (mycotoxins). Fumonisin are a group of mycotoxins produced mainly by *Fusarium verticillioides* and *F. proliferatum*. Although several analogues have been identified and characterized, fumonisin B<sub>1</sub> (FB<sub>1</sub>, FB<sub>2</sub>, and FB<sub>3</sub> occur at significant levels in naturally contaminated corn and corn-based products. Fumonisin in feed are associated with toxic effects such as interference with cell membrane metabolism, inhibition of sphingolipid metabolism and damage of several organs. The aim of this study was to evaluate the contamination of dog feed by fumonisin in Northern Paraná State, Brazil. Natural occurrence of fumonisin was evaluated in three feed types (Standard, Premium and Super Premium) intended for dogs (n=81), collected from the residence of the owners. Fumonisin were determined by a reverse-phase isocratic HPLC system, using methanol: 0.1 M NaH<sub>2</sub>PO<sub>4</sub> (80:20, v/v) adjusted to pH 3.3 as mobile phase. FB<sub>1</sub> and FB<sub>2</sub> were detected in 72.8% and 51.9% of feed samples with levels ranging from 31.3 to 303.7 µg/kg and 36.1 to 972.2 µg/kg, respectively. Fumonisin (FB<sub>1</sub>+FB<sub>2</sub>) were detected in 77.6%, 72% and 42.9% of Standard, Premium and Super

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### Referência:

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Premium feed, respectively. Most feed samples (66.7%) showed fumonisin ( $FB_1+FB_2$ ) levels below 450  $\mu\text{g/kg}$ . Mean FBs ( $FB_1+FB_2$ ) levels were 272.43  $\mu\text{g/kg}$  (Standard), 78.22  $\mu\text{g/kg}$  (Premium), and 186.53  $\mu\text{g/kg}$  (Super Premium). There was no significant difference in mean fumonisin levels among all the dog feed types by the Kruskal-Wallis test ( $p>0.05$ ). In spite of the maximum allowed levels for fumonisins ( $FB_1 + FB_2$ ) have not been established for pet food, the maximum levels detected (1014.72  $\mu\text{g/kg}$ ) were below the maximum tolerable limit (4000  $\mu\text{g/kg}$ ) recommended by the Brazilian Association of Pet Products Industry (2013). The estimated mean fumonisin daily intake (1.479  $\mu\text{g/kg bw/day}$ ) for dogs was below the acceptable daily intake (20  $\mu\text{g/kg body weight/day}$ ) and the pet safe dietary level (2000  $\mu\text{g/kg dog feed}$ ), indicating that all the feed samples were considered safe for dogs concerning fumonisins. Despite the low levels of contamination observed in this study, more studies are necessary to evaluate the chronic effects of fumonisins on dog health.

**Palavras-Chave:** Dog feed, fumonisins, mycotoxins

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