C1768 CLINICAL MANAGEMENT OF SOROPOSITIVE DOGS FOR VISCERAL LEISHMANIASIS, ASYMPTOMATICS AND WITH NO INFECTING POTENTIAL FOR SAND FLIES.

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1 Background
Canine Visceral Leishmaniasis (CVL) is a chronic and fatal disease, when untreated. It is caused by a digenetic protozoan named *Leishmania infantum*, which also infects humans and other animal species. Its transmission occurs by the bite of infected dipteran sandflies insects of the species *Lutzomyia longipalpis*. The dog is the main domestic reservoir of *L. infantum*, but the diagnosis of infection is often difficult, either due to the low anti-*Leishmania* antibodies titers, the absence of parasitic forms in parasitological and molecular tests, absence of physical signs and normality of the complementary tests such as the complete blood count, renal and hepatic profile and serum protein levels. Animals in these conditions are not classified as infected but rather as suspects and do not have a protocol of therapeutic management or established follow-up.

2 Methods
In order to monitor suspected CVL animals, thirty-two dogs, of different breeds, varied ages and both sexes, with positive serological results, IFAT and/or ELISA, were followed for one year, but with low titers, parasitological and/or molecular tests negatives, absence of physical signs and alterations in the complementary tests classified as suspected (Stage I) of CVL.

3 Results
Of these thirty-two animals, in the first evaluation, 26/32 were ELISA reagents and in IFAT, 17/32 had titles 1:40, 13/32 1:80 and 2/32 1:160. All dogs were submitted to immunotherapy, based on the application of the *L. infantum* A2 antigen associated with 1 mg of saponin as adjuvant (two vials of the Leish-Tec® vaccine), in three administrations with 21-day intervals and one administration every six months. These animals were evaluated one year later and 13/32 were maintained ELISA reagents; in IFAT, 21/32 were negative, 3/32 had titles 1:40, 7/32 1:80 and 1/32 1:160. The physical pattern remained asymptomatic, parasitological and/or molecular exams continued negative and the complementary tests remained within the normality parameters.

4 Conclusions
The absence of disease evolution in these animals, as well as the reduction in the number of reactive animals in the ELISA and the antibody titers in the IFAT, except for those false positives, may indicate a protective immunomodulatory response against the progression of the infection provided by the immunotherapeutic treatment with the A2 antigen associated with 1 mg of saponin. Similar results were demonstrated in dogs treated with immunotherapy and allopurinol in a previous study (RIBEIRO et al., 2013).