

## From the European zoonoses Report 2006 *Campylobacter* in livestock and pets in 2006 and previous years

### I *Campylobacter* in livestock and pets

In 2006, still many broiler flocks within the EU were contaminated with *Campylobacter*. In France, the Veneto region in Italy and Slovenia a very high percentage (72-83%) of the broiler flocks were contaminated. In various countries the percentage of contaminated pig and cattle herds was also very high. In five countries the contamination frequency in pig herds was 52-74%. In cattle herds the contamination frequency was 44% in Denmark and 60% in the Veneto region of Italy.

#### **Data about *Campylobacter* contamination in livestock and pets in 2006**

The data were collected by the EU Member States and reported to the 'European Food Safety Authority' (EFSA) in the framework of the EU epidemiological surveillance program. The presence of *Campylobacter* was assessed by analysing samples of feces from 30-60 animals per flock or 5 or more animals per herd. It should be noted that the data do not differentiate between the isolated *Campylobacter*-species (see ed. note). A summary of the results is presented in Table 1, in order of decreasing frequency of contamination.

**Table 1.** Prevalence of *Campylobacter* (% positive flocks) in broiler flocks and pig herds  
Per country the number of analysed flocks/herds and percentage contaminated flocks/herds are shown.

Country	Analysed in 2006	
	Number of flocks/herds	% pos.
<b>Broiler flocks</b>		
Italy, Veneto region	155	83
France	202	82
Slovenia	311	72
Austria	550	52
Spain	98	50
Czech rep.	189	49
Latvia	70	47
Italy	96	38
Denmark	4,595	30
Germany	365	23
6 other countries	5,765	0-14
<b>EU total</b>	<b>15,864</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Pig herds</b>		
Spain	195	74
France	204	68
Slovakia	39	56
Italy	199	56
Denmark	295	52
Hungary	505	8
Ireland	216	1
<b>EU total</b>	<b>1,653</b>	<b>37</b>

#### **Broiler flocks**

Sixteen Member States analysed a total of 15,864 broiler flocks, with a mean contamination frequency of 20%! The contamination frequency varied strongly between Member States: from 0% in Estonia and Ireland to 82% in France and 83% in the Veneto region of Italy.

### **Pig herds**

Seven Member States analysed a total of 1,653 pig herds, with a mean contamination frequency of 37%! The contamination frequency varied considerably between Member States, from 1% in Ireland to 74% in Spain.

### **Cattle herds**

Eleven Member States analysed cattle for *Campylobacter* contamination. In addition to herds, individual animals were analysed as well.

The contamination of herds varied from 0% (Latvia) to 44% in Denmark. Notably cattle herds for meat production were frequently contaminated with *Campylobacter*. The contamination frequency of individual animals varied from 0% (The Netherlands) to 20% (Luxemburg). It is remarkable that in The Netherlands none of the 22,532 analysed dairy cows were contaminated with *Campylobacter*!

### **Goats and sheep**

Of the 2,696 goats and sheep which were analysed by six Member States, 4.5% were contaminated with *Campylobacter*. The contamination frequency varied from 0% (Ireland and The Netherlands) to 25.6% (Italy).

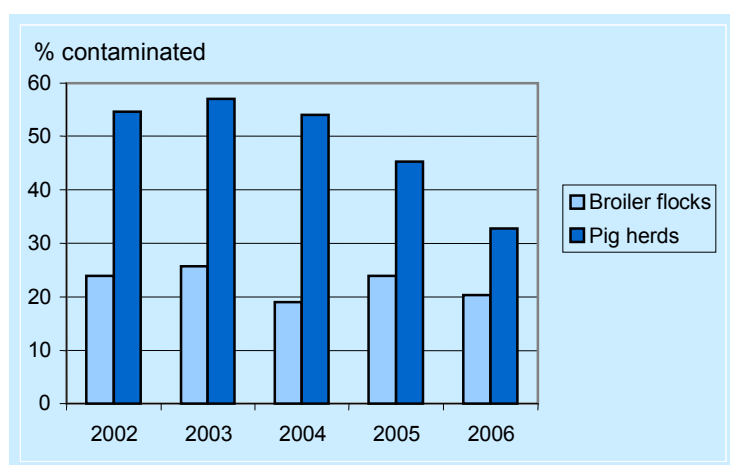
### **Pets**

In total 2,696 birds, cats and dogs were analysed in five Member States, of which 4.5% were contaminated with *Campylobacter*. The contamination frequency (number of positive samples) varied from rarely (cats in Ireland) to frequently (dogs in The Netherlands).

## **II Trends in contamination frequency of broiler flocks and pig herds**

The trend in prevalence of *Campylobacter* in broiler flocks and pig herds in the period 2002-2006 is presented in Figure 1.

**Figure 1.** Trend (% positive samples) in prevalence of *Campylobacter* in broiler flocks and pig herds in the period 2002 – 2006



The data show that the frequency of *Campylobacter* contamination of pig herds has decreased considerably over the last 5 years from almost 60% to 30%, whereas the contamination frequency of broiler flocks remained stable at about 20%.

Source:

*The Community Summary Report on Trends and Sources of Zoonoses, Zoonotic Agents, Antimicrobial Resistance and Foodborne Outbreaks in the European Union in 2006, The EFSA Journal (2007) 130*

**Editorial note.** Only a small proportion of the positive samples were identified at species level. The reported data show that *C. jejuni* was detected most frequently in poultry, cattle and sheep, whereas *C. coli* were prevalent in pigs.