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Livro de Resumos

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**Aula Magna**  
**Instituto Superior Politécnico de Viseu**

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**Leishmaniasis in Portugal - the Veterinary Nursing as a part of the solution**

**Gouveia A, Santos C, Vala H, Esteves F, Oliveira AL, Cruz R, Mega AC, Nóbrega C and Mesquita JR  
Agrarian Superior School, Polytechnic Institute of Viseu, Portugal**

Leishmaniasis is a severe systemic parasitic disease that affects people, pets and wildlife and the leishmania transfer of dogs to humans is always made through the insect vector - the phlebotome. This disease manifests different clinical symptoms and is the result of a intracellular protozoan of the *Leishmania* spp. which is a prevalent agent throughout the Mediterranean having markedly increased its presence in Portugal for the last years. In humans treatment has a higher success rate than dogs, with few relapses, except in immunosuppressed individuals. The increase of canine leishmaniasis can therefore increase human leishmaniasis thus it is very important to try to contain the disease in dogs. It is for those reasons a disease of concern for public health.

Keywords: *Leishmania* spp., zoonoses, Veterinary Nursing, Public Health.